

“Let’s Work Together!”

By Evelyn Pinto

We, as people and individuals, have the need to be treated with dignity and respect.

The places where it is needed more, it's lacking the most.

This is, especially true of my many experiences I've undergone, of being a patient in the hospital.

(I have serious, life threatening medical conditions that require the acute care of the hospital more than I, or anyone would like).

Doctors, nurses and many other medical personnel have stabilized my medical conditions, have improved my quality of life and have saved my life on occasions.

I love life and I am very grateful to the many people who have helped me and who still continue to help and support me.

Many times, as a patient in the hospital, the hospital staff do not give me the respect that I, as a person, should receive.

I am a competent, intelligent, capable adult and I really resent some of the all too common behaviors, practiced by staff.

I want to tell the people in the medical field:

1) I'm not just a body, disease and/or patient.

I am a person, value and worth just as much as the professionals who give me care or as anyone else!

2) I am not naïve and I am totally offended when, especially professional people, treat me like a child!

I am an adult in my right mind, who needs, wants and should be treated like the intelligent, competent, capable person I am.

Do not treat me like anything else, but this!

Common courtesy and the privacy rights of a patient is lacking, at times, by the best intentioned people.

Whether you be a doctor, nurse, technician or any other staff member, ask me "before" you examine me, touch me, and touch my clothing, my oxygen and my mobility device.

Need to know is essential to me

Tell me if there is any change in my medical condition(s) and when there is a change of people caring for me.

Please tell me of any test/procedure, before it happens.

From personal experiences, I know emergency do happen.

In an emergency I would want my doctors and medical team to do every necessary to save my life, in accordance to my wishes.

To make the right decision(s) for me, I need to know about my health conditions and treatments.

Do "not" make decisions for me.

The need for me to know the people caring for me, my medical issues, diagnosis, problems, medications, etc.... is not a request!

It's a right!

Privacy in my healthcare is essential to me.

People who do not need to know my medical record, medical information, history, problems, issues, diagnosis, should "not" have access to it.

If there is one thing that I could say to my doctors is:

Tell me about my medical conditions, symptoms, and the reasons I am experiencing these symptoms.

Share with me alternative treatments for my illness and the' usual progression.

Please, tell me all other criteria pertaining to the illness in my body.

Explain to me what treatment(s), if any, I could use in treating my medical conditions

Let me decide, with your guidance and input, how I am going to live with my medical conditions.

I am the one who decides what my quality of life should be!

The truth is a lot less scary than if I guess or google my health conditions, symptoms, diagnosis, etc....

In other words, talking with me about my health conditions, openly and honestly, in a manner I understand, is the best way to treat me.

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