

# Patient Safety Checklist

By Kimberly French

- ☐ Becoming a Better Patient
  - ☐ Tell your doctor the complete story, because even symptoms that may seem minor could be important.
  - ☐ Establish a timeline.
  - ☐ Keep records of all test results, discharge summaries, and whatever data might be needed by the next doctor.
  - ☐ Do not minimize complaints.
  - ☐ Bring important information like medications, your medical history, and a list of your symptoms in writing.
  - ☐ Bring a companion to help you hear and understand everything your doctor says to you.
  - ☐ Understand that your doctor diagnoses your condition by considering the history of your medical problem, the results of a physical examination, and the findings of medical tests.
  - ☐ Help your doctor see patterns by disclosing all relevant information in a concise manner.
  - ☐ Do not be afraid to ask if your doctor needs more information.
  - ☐ Find a doctor who knows how to listen.
  - ☐ If you think your doctor has overlooked something, tell him.
  - ☐ Feel free to offer your own suggestions.
  - ☐ Ask about when you can expect test results, and call your physician if you do not hear about the results.
  - ☐ Do not think that "no news is good news."
- ☐ Patient Safety
  - ☐ While in the hospital, wear your wrist ID bracelet provided to you on admission.
  - ☐ Always keep call device within your reach to call your nurse when you need help.
  - ☐ Do not smoke inside the building.
  - ☐ Remove clutter in the area where you will be walking.
  - ☐ Ask questions about your medications.
  - ☐ Report all medications you are taking.