

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.