



Hospital Patient Safety Checklist

1. Selecting a Hospital:

- Choosing hospitals with high volumes of the specific procedure or surgery you require, as patient outcomes tend to be better in such facilities.
- Research the hospital's safety record and patient experiences through reputable sources such as Medicare's Care Compare ([medicare.gov/care-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare)) and the Hospital Safety Grade <https://www.hospitalsafetygrade.org/>
- Your risk of dying may depend on the hospital you choose.

****Be aware that hospital choice significantly impacts mortality risk****

The risk is 34.9% higher at hospitals with a 'B' rating, 87.7% higher at those with a 'C' rating, and 91.8% higher at 'D' rated hospitals, compared 'A' rated hospitals.

2. Choosing Your Healthcare Provider:

- Seek a physician with whom you feel comfortable with and who treats you with dignity and respect, fostering a collaborative approach to healthcare decisions.

3. Understanding Your Rights:

- You have the right to healthcare information that is easily understood.
- Your healthcare information should be easily accessible and accurate.
- You have the right to be treated with respect and without discrimination.

4. Importance of Communication: (This is essential for you to understand the plan of care and make decisions).

- Actively engage in your care by asking questions and expressing concerns. Your input is crucial in determining the appropriate course of treatment.
- Speak up when you have questions or concerns. You must decide what plan of medical treatment is right for you.

- Take notes when conversing with your healthcare team for future reference, to inform family members, conduct further research, or discuss with other healthcare professionals.
- Ensure clear communication among your healthcare team members about your diagnostics, medications, and overall care plan.
- Don't assume that the healthcare team is communicating with each other. Make sure each team member understands what you learn about your diagnostic results, medications, etc.

5. Hand Hygiene:

- Insist on handwashing by all healthcare professionals who come into contact with you, including doctors, nurses, and technicians, to prevent Healthcare-Acquired Infections (HAIs), which pose significant risks in medical settings.

6. Surgical and Procedural Safety:

- Be sure you understand the risks and benefits of any proposed surgery or procedure, as explained by the physician or surgeon.
- The surgeon is expected to sign their initials directly on the site to be operated on such as your kidney, your leg, or your breast.

7. Diagnostic Test Follow-ups:

- Always request and review your test results; do not assume that a lack of communication means everything is normal.
- Clarify your results, what it means, and if there is further follow-ups or recommended actions.

8. Rapid Response Teams:

- These teams are available in most acute care hospitals to respond to a patient who is becoming unstable or deteriorating.
- Nurses should be calling this team for help when a patient is unstable.
- Don't be afraid to ask or insist on the team being called if you feel extreme concern about your loved one's condition.

9. Medication Awareness:

- Be informed about all medications being administered, including their purposes and potential side effects, to ensure your safety and well-being.

10. Discharge Planning:

- Ensure a comprehensive discharge plan is discussed with your physician to include
 1. Medication management
 2. Follow-up appointments
 3. Recommended activity levels to support a safe transition home.