

Oregon Support Person Legislation

Patients with disabilities have a right to support persons while they are in any Oregon Hospital. Qualifying disabilities include but are not limited to a physical, intellectual, behavioral or cognitive impairment, deafness, being hard of hearing or other communication barrier, blindness, autism, or dementia.

Such patients may designate at least three support persons to assist with

- Communicating with hospital staff,
- Making medical decisions and/or
- Helping with daily activities.

At least one support person can be with the patient at all times in the emergency department and during the hospital stay, if necessary, to facilitate the patient's care.

The patient's designated support person may be present as needed for any discussion in which the patient has asked to elect hospice care or to sign an advance directive or other document allowing the withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining care, unless the patient specifically requests to have the conversation without the designated support person.

All support persons must comply with conditions imposed by the hospital to ensure safety, such as:

- Wearing personal protective equipment provided by the hospital,
- Following hand washing and other protocols to prevent the potential spread of infections,
- Being free of any symptoms of viruses or contagious diseases and
- Submitting to screenings for viruses or contagious diseases upon entering and exiting the hospital.

If you have a question or concern, please bring it to the attention of your nurse, a nurse leader or a patient satisfaction coordinator at 541-706-6316. You also may contact the Oregon Health Authority, Health Care Regulation and Quality Improvement Division at 971-673-0540.

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