

Questions and Answers
Amendment to the Patients' Bill of Rights (Hospital Act)

Q. What is the Patients' Bill of Rights?

A. The Patients' Bill of Rights was enacted to promote the rights of persons living in residential care facilities.

The rights are grouped into four broad themes: commitment to care; rights to health, safety and dignity; rights to participation and freedom of expression, and rights to transparency and accountability.

Q. Why is an amendment needed to the Patients' Bill of Rights?

A. An amendment is needed to provide more standardized benefits and protections to persons in care in facilities regulated by the *Hospital Act* rather than the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*.

The promotion of more standardized benefits and protections was a key recommendation of the ombudsperson's report on seniors care, and is a commitment of the seniors action plan.

Q. Are the changes being made to the Patients' Bill of Rights related to the ombudsperson's report on seniors care?

A. Yes, they are related. The ombudsperson's report recommends that persons in residential care settings should have the same benefits and protections.

These amendments promote greater alignment with the benefits and protections that are provided to persons in facilities licensed under the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*.

Q. How are these changes related to the seniors' action plan?

A. The seniors action plan makes a commitment to standardizing benefits and protections to all residential care clients, regardless of where they live.



Q. What facilities does the Patients' Bill of Rights apply to?

A. Residential care facilities regulated under the *Hospital Act*. These include private hospitals and extended care facilities.

Q. Does the Patients' Bill of Rights apply to persons who are in acute care hospitals?

A. No, it applies only to persons who live in residential care facilities known as private hospitals and extended care facilities.

Q. Who lives in private hospitals and extended care facilities?

A. Persons who live in private hospitals and extended care facilities are predominantly seniors with complex care needs.

Other populations, such as younger persons with acquired injuries or complex care needs, sometimes also live in residential care facilities.

Persons who live in residential care facilities typically are the same population group that live in facilities regulated by the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act* (Residential Care Regulation).

Q. Who will monitor these facilities to make sure that they are meeting the new requirements?

A. Home, community and integrated care leads in each health authority will ensure that staff are assigned to monitor these new requirements.

