Each patient receiving service at Hunterdon Center for Surgery shall have the following rights and responsibilities.

1. Each patient has the right to be informed of these rights, as evidenced by the patient's written acknowledgement or by documentation by staff in the medical record that the patient was offered a written copy of these rights and given a written or verbal explanation of these rights, in terms the patient could understand. The facility shall have a means to notify patients of any rules and regulations it has adopted governing patient conduct in the facility.

2. Each patient has the right to be informed of services available in the facility, of the names and professional status of the personnel providing and/or responsible for the patient's care, and of fees and related charges including the payment, fee, deposit, and refund policy of the facility and any charges for services not covered by sources of third-party payment or not covered by the facility’s basic rate.

3. Each patient has the right to be informed if the facility has authorized other health care and educational institutions to participate in the patient's treatment. The patient also shall have a right to know the identity and function of these institutions, and to refuse to allow their participation in the patient's treatment.

4. Each patient has the right to receive from the patient's physician(s) or clinical practitioner(s), in terms that the patient understands, an explanation of his or her complete medical/health condition or diagnosis, recommended treatment, treatment options, including the option of no treatment, risk(s) of treatment and expected result(s). If this information would be detrimental to the patient's health, or if the patient is not capable of understanding the information, the explanation shall be provided to the patient's next of kin or guardian. This release of information to the next of kin or guardian, along with the reason for not informing the patient directly, shall be documented in the patient's medical record.

5. Each patient has the right to participate in the planning of the patient's care and treatment, and to refuse medication and treatment. Such refusal shall be documented in the patient's medical record.

6. Each patient as the right to be included in experimental research only when the patient gives informed written consent to such participation, or when a guardian gives informed written consent to such participation, or when a guardian gives such consent for an incompetent patient in accordance with law, rule, and regulation. The patient may refuse to participate in experimental research, including the investigation of new drugs and medical devices.

7. Each patient has the right to voice grievances or recommend changes in policies and services to facility personnel, the governing body, and/or outside representatives of the patient's choice, either individually or as a group, and free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination or reprisal.

8. Each patient has the right to be free from mental and physical abuse, free from exploitation, and free from use of restraints, unless they are authorized by a physician for a limited period of time to protect the patient or Patient Rights or other from injury. Drugs and other medications shall not be used for discipline of patients or for convenience of facility personnel.

9. Each patient has the right to confidential treatment of information about the patient. Information in the patient's medical record shall not be released to anyone outside the facility without the patient's approval, unless another health care facility to which the patient was transferred requires the information, or the release of the information is required and permitted by law, a third party payment contract, or a peer review, or unless the information is needed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services for statutorily authorized purposes. The facility may release data about the patient for studies containing aggregated statistics when the patient's identity is masked.

10. Each patient has the right to be treated with courtesy, consideration, respect, and recognition of the patient's dignity, individuality, and right to privacy, including, but not limited to, auditory and visual privacy. The patient's privacy shall also be respected when facility personnel are discussing the patient's treatment.

11. Each patient has the right to not be required to perform work for the facility unless the work is part of the patient's treatment and is performed voluntarily by the patient. Such work shall be in accordance with local, state and federal laws and rules.

12. Each patient has the right to exercise civil and religious liberties, including the right to independent personal decisions. No religious beliefs or practices, or any attendance at religious services shall be imposed upon any patient.

13. Each patient has the right to not be discriminated against because of age, race, religion, sex, nationality, or ability to pay, or deprived of any constitutional, civil, and/or legal rights solely because of receiving services from the facility.

14. It is the responsibility of the Center to know and understand the Patients Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

15. Patients will receive a signed copy of the Patients Bill of Rights and Responsibilities and the original document will be placed in the Medical Record.
16. Since effective treatment in part on patient history, the Center expects the patient or the patient’s family to provide information about past illnesses, hospitalizations, medications, and other pertinent matters.

17. Except for emergencies, the practitioner shall obtain the necessary informed written consent prior to the start of specified non-emergency procedures or treatments only after a physician has explained, in terms that the patient understands, specific details about the recommended procedure or treatment, the risks involved, the possible duration of incapacitation, and any reasonable medical alternatives for care and treatment. (NJAC 8:43G-4.1(a)(7) Informed consent is required by the State of New Jersey. (NJAC 8.43A-13.3(a)(16)

18. A patient, or if the patient is unable to give informed consent, a responsible person, has the right to be advised when a practitioner is considering the patient as a part of a medical care research program or a donor program, and the patient or responsible person shall give informed consent prior to actual participation in the program. A patient or responsible person may refuse to continue in a program to which he has previously given consent.

19. Patients who do not speak English shall have access to an interpreter.

20. Patients have the right to choose to change primary or specialty physicians or dentists if other qualified physicians or dentists are available. The Center expects that patients will ask questions about instructions or procedures they do not understand.

21. The Center expects the patient will ask questions about directions or procedures they don’t understand.

22. The Center expects the patient to be considerate of other patients and staff in regard to noise, smoking, and number of visitors in the patient areas. The patient is also expected to respect the property of the Center and of other persons.

23. The Center expects patients to follow instructions and medical orders and report unexpected changes in their condition to their physicians and Center staff.

24. The patient assumes financial responsibility for all services either through their insurance or by paying fees at the time of service.

25. The Center expects patients to follow all safety regulations they are instructed or read about.

26. If the patient fails to follow healthcare provider’s instructions, or if the patient refuses care, they accept responsibility for their actions.

27. As a Patient with Pain you have the right to
   a. have your report of pain taken seriously and to be treated with dignity and respect by physicians and Center staff.
   b. have your pain thoroughly assessed and promptly treated.
   c. be informed by your doctor about what may be causing your pain, possible treatments, and the benefits, risks and costs of each.
   d. participate actively in decisions about how to manage your pain.
   e. have your pain reassessed regularly and your treatment adjusted if your pain has not been eased.
   f. be referred to a pain specialist if your pain persists.
   g. get clear and prompt answers to your questions, to take time to make decision, and to refuse a particular type of treatment.

Questions and Complaints
You may call one of the following, if you have a question or grievance concerning your patient rights:

Medical Director
Stanley Sheft, M.D.
908-806-7017

Executive Director
Lisa York
908-806-7017

Mid Jersey Corp
Gail Kosyla
908-788-6153

Patients may also call the New Jersey Department of Health Hotline or address correspondence to:

Division of Health Facilities
Evaluation and Licensing
New Jersey State Department of Health
PO Box 367
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0367
Telephone: 609-292-9000

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Complaint Hotline: 1-800-792-9770

State of New Jersey Office of the Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly
PO Box 852
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0808
24 Hour Toll Free Hotline: 1-877-582-6995 or 609-943-4023

Medicare Ombudsman
www.medicare.gov/ombudsman/resources.asp