

Eastern Washington University Department of Dental Hygiene

Patient Bill of Rights

The Department of Dental Hygiene at Eastern Washington University is a teaching institution dedicated to the education of future dental hygienists. As a patient of our facility, you have certain rights, and also certain responsibilities. Below we have outlined some of these rights and responsibilities.

Your rights as a patient are:

1. To be treated with respect, compassion, consideration, and dignity, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, country of origin, age, or ability to pay.
2. Patient disclosures and records are treated confidentially, and, except when required by law, patients are given the opportunity to approve or refuse their release.
3. To be informed of your dental hygiene treatment needs, progress of treatment, and any changes in treatment conditions.
4. To be informed of the length of appointments and fees before treatment is performed.
5. To be encouraged to seek alternative treatments, referrals, and second opinions when necessary.
6. To access your dental hygiene clinical treatment records.
7. To refuse treatment.
8. To treatment provided at the Standard of Care as outlined by the American Dental Hygiene Association Standards of Clinical Practice

Your responsibilities as a patient are:

1. To provide complete personal information including your full name, address, telephone number, date of birth, Social Security number, insurance carrier or Provider One number, employer, emergency contact person, a photo of yourself, and other pertinent information for treatment and billing purposes.
2. To be honest about your health and medical history, such as, but not limited to, present conditions, past illnesses, hospital stays, medications, vitamins, herbal products, and any other information pertaining to your health, including perceived health risks.
3. To ask questions when you do not understand information or instructions.
4. To actively participate in your dental hygiene care.
5. To treat all department faculty, staff, students, other patients, and visitors with courtesy and respect, and abide by all department rules and safety regulations.
6. To pay your bill at the time of treatment.
7. To keep your scheduled appointment, be on time, and call your dental care provider if you cannot keep your appointment.
8. To have a private practice dentist or a referral is provided by our clinic because we cannot provide comprehensive care.

References

- Johns Hopkins University (October, 2025). *Patient Rights and Responsibilities* from The Johns Hopkins University Primary Care . Retrieved from <https://wellbeing.jhu.edu/PrimaryCare/patient-rights-and-responsibilities/>
- Kimbrough-Walls, V. & Lautar, C. (2011). *Ethics, Jurisprudence and Practice Management in Dental Hygiene (3rd Ed.)*. Pearson HE, Inc. New York, New York