

Your healthcare team would like to tell you:

Use these patient safety tips.
You can make a difference!



or



Patient Safety Hotline
County of Los Angeles - Health Service Administration
(213) 989-SAFE (7233) or (800) 611-4365

or

Office of Quality Monitoring - The Joint Commission
(800) 994-6610 ♦ Fax: (630) 792-5636 ♦ complaint@jointcommission.org
<http://www.ccforspatientsafety.org/>

Disclaimer: This information is for specific health education purposes only. If you have questions, you should ask your doctor, nurse, or other persons who you see for your health care needs. Each clinician caring for the patient is responsible for determining the most appropriate care.

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Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

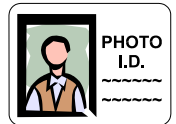
► Patient Safety Tips ◀

Inpatients

**Be involved in your care while you are in the hospital.
Your safety is very important.**

Be Safe In The Hospital.

- No smoking - except in designated areas outside.
- Report unsafe hazards, such as wet floors or exposed needles.
- Know your caregivers.
Read their photo ID badges.
- Report any unusual activities or people.



When you get to your room,

- Know how to **call** your nurse using the “call light”.
- Always call for help if you need it.
- Call for help to go to the bathroom. Patients often fall when rushing to the bathroom.
- Tell us if you have **trouble walking**, feel dizzy or light-headed, or have fallen in the past.
- Call your nurse if your equipment alarms or beeps.
- Tell your nurse if you need to leave the area.



Make Sure Your Medicines Are Safe For You.

- Know your medicines, why you need them, and their side effects.
- Tell your doctor about **all the medicines** you take at home. These are:
 - ◆ **anything a doctor ordered,**
 - ◆ **anything you bought over-the-counter,**
 - ◆ **herbal medicines,**
 - ◆ **vitamins, minerals, and others.**
- Bring **bottles** of everything you take to show us.
- Do not take any of your own medicine while in the hospital. Your doctor will order them.
- Tell us if you have any **allergies or bad reactions** to medicines, foods or latex (rubber).
- Tell us if you do not feel well after taking a medicine.
- Tell us when you feel **pain**. Controlling your pain will help you recover sooner.



Tell Us About Your Concerns. Ask Us Questions.

- Ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist questions.
- Ask for an interpreter if you need one.
- Ask about your test results.
- When we give you a medicine, feel free to ask the name and what it is for.
- If you think or feel there is a mistake with your medicine, please tell us right away.
- Call us if you or your family members think you are getting worse.



We Do It For Your Safety.

- We need to make sure we give the right care to the right person.
- **Speak up** if you think we have you mixed up with someone else.
- We, the hospital staff, must all wear photo ID badges.
- We must apply an ID band to you. Please do not remove it.

- We must **check your ID band, date of birth, or hospital ID number** before we:
 - ◆ give you medicine or blood,
 - ◆ draw your blood,
 - ◆ do an X-ray, test, or treatment.



We Can Fight The Spread Of Germs Together.

- Germs and infections can be spread through coughing, sneezing, and touching.
- Preventing infection can help your recovery. Always **wash your hands** after using the bathroom and before eating.
- We should first wash our hands before we touch you. Please remind us if we haven't. We may wash our hands using soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel. Hand-washing is the best way to prevent infection, like the common cold or the flu.
- Always use a tissue to **cover your nose and mouth** when sneezing and coughing.
- **Ask us if you need to follow special precautions.**
- You may need to be in an isolation room if there are concerns with germs or infection.
 - ◆ Everyone entering the room must wear special gear to protect you and them.
 - ◆ Some of your personal items should not be in an isolation room. Feel free to ask us.
 - ◆ Young children may not enter an isolation Room. Ask us when you need to.



Before You Go Home You Need To Know:

- What danger signs to look for and what to do if they happen.
- What you should not do or eat.
- How to use any special things, such as bandages, tubes, and catheters.
- How and when to take or stop taking your medications.
- How much medicine you need until your next visit.
- When and where your next clinic visit will be.