



**James J. Peters VA Medical Center
Bronx, New York**

**Spinal Cord Injury
Patient Care Center Guide**

Revised January, 2013

Introduction:

On behalf of our entire staff, we welcome you to the Spinal Cord Injury Patient Care Center (SCI PCC) at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center.

The mission of the SCI PCC is to promote the health, independence, quality of life, and productivity of individuals with spinal cord injuries. The SCIPCC offers a unique system of care that includes a full range of healthcare for eligible persons who have sustained injury to their spinal cord or have other spinal cord lesions. Persons served include those with stable neurological deficit due to spinal cord injury, intraspinal nonmalignant neoplasms, vascular insult, cauda equina syndrome, inflammatory disease, spinal cord and or cauda equina damage, demyelinating disease limited to the spinal cord and of a stable nature, and degenerative spinal disease.

During your stay, a physician will be in charge of your treatment. Our nursing personnel will provide you professional nursing care, and the ancillary staff will assist to make your stay a pleasant one. Our program has experts in areas such as Orthopedics, General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Urology, and Dental Care, as well as medical and surgical sub-specialties.

This guide supplements the James J. Peters VA Medical Center Patient Handbook. Please keep this booklet as a handy reference for you and your family during your orientation and initial assessment to the Spinal Cord Injury Unit. Please feel free to ask any questions or discuss your concerns with staff members at any time.

Edward McLaughlin, M.S.
Director, Spinal Cord Injury Patient Care Center

Arthur Cytryn, MD
Clinical Director, SCI Programs VISN 3

FOLLOW UP PLANS:

Before being discharged, check with your physician about any follow up plans. Consider these questions:

- When does your physician need to see you again?
- Do you have a clinic appointment?

If you need to speak with your physician or want to see him/her, you can make an appointment through our SCI Outpatient Office by calling (718) 584-9000 ext. 5405/5409.

We will schedule your appointment for the day your physician is in clinic. During non-clinic hours, weekends, and holidays, or if you have an acute medical problem, go to the nearest VA Medical Center, Primary Care Physician, or the nearest Emergency Room.

If you have questions or concerns about medical supplies, or if you need advice from your Primary Care Physician, call the Spinal Cord Patient Care Center at (718) 584-9000 ext. 5389/5390. You will be contacted within 24 hours.

If there is a question during off hours (Weekends, Holidays, Evenings, & Nights), we have a registered nurse that is available to answer your questions about medication, health problems or appointments. Please call 1-800-877-6979.

Important Telephone Numbers

The following are telephone extensions that may be of assistance.

Main Hospital.....	(718) 584-9000
SCI Office.....	389/5390/5391
SCI Outpatient Clinic.....	5405/5409
Clinical Nurse Manager.....	5404
GU Clinic.....	5406
SCI Damage Research Center	5418
USA Wheelchair Repair.....	5396
Prosthetics.....	5555/5480
Pharmacy.....	5490
Home Care.....	5419
VISN3 Nurse Help Line.....	(800) 877-6976
PVA Service Officers.....	(718) 584-9000 X:6272
My HealtheVet.....	(www.myhealth.va.gov)
Hospital Administrator Coordinator	6833
IG Hotline.....	1-800-488-4244
Regional Office.....	1-800-827-1000
NY State Benefit Office.....	718-584-9000 x:6361

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Coming to the James J. Peters VA:

Where to Report:

SCI patients who have a scheduled admission date on weekdays (Monday thru Friday from 8:00-4:30pm) should report to the SCI Outpatient Clinic (1A-07) where you will be directed to your assigned unit and admitted from there. In the event you must be admitted after the normal hours or on the weekend, please report to the Emergency Room. The Emergency Room will contact the "on call" SCI Attending Physician.

During Your Stay:

The Spinal Cord Injury Unit is a Patient Care Center. The Patient Care Center represents a total re-engineering of the interacting parts that compromise a Patient Care Program. The patient and his/her care become the hub, of every action of the interdisciplinary team. The Patient Care Center Director coordinates all the care on the unit. Customer satisfaction and quality care are the very essence of its existence.

While you are a patient, you will be assigned a Primary Care Provider. During rounds, you will meet other team members that may be assigned to your care (e.g. Social Work, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Kinesiotherapy, Recreation, Dietitian, Nursing, Psychology, Pharmacy and Chaplain Program) depending on your condition and your needs.

What to Bring and What to Leave at Home:

Bring your own toiletries, sneakers, and some civilian clothes. We would like you to wear your own clothes for therapeutic purposes. Each patient also gets a bedside locker for storing personal belongings. Please do not bring an excessive amount of cash, or valuable items. It is recommended that patients shouldn't have more than \$5.00 in their possession. The hospital will not assume responsibility for loss of money or valuable items remaining in your possession.

Parking:

The medical center would appreciate if all inpatients would leave their vehicles at home during their stay. If an inpatient must park his/her vehicle, you must park in the designated "Handicapped Parking Areas" (In front of the medical center, marked in blue). It is recommended that you should report your license plate number to Police and Security.

Leaving the James J. Peters VA:

Discharge Procedures:

Planning for your discharge begins early in your hospital stay. Your Primary Physician, nurse, and social worker will work with you to make the best plan for your follow up care, self care learning, rehabilitation, and needed adjustments in living arrangements after discharge from this medical center.

Here are some tips for a quick discharge:

- Ask your Physician or Nurse, if your discharge orders and prescriptions have been written.
- Make your transportation arrangements as soon as your doctors finalizes your discharge plans.
- Advise your family or friends where to pick you up when discharged. If you have any problems with arranging transportation, talk with your physician, social worker, or nurse as soon as possible.
- Do not forget to take your discharge medications and supplies home. Make sure there is an understanding about the medications to be taken following discharge from the Medical Center, and whether an outpatient follow up visit(s) is scheduled.

Patients Responsibilities:

To the degree possible, patient responsibilities are:

1. To follow all of the medical center's safety rules and posted signs.
2. To try to be considerate and respectful of all medical center personnel and other patients.
3. To cooperate with the treatment staff. If questions or disagreement with treatment plan occurs, the patient is responsible for discussing it with the treatment staff.
4. To try to prevent injury to oneself, other patients, visitors and staff members by their own actions and to be responsible for the safekeeping of clothing, money, and personal possessions they choose to keep with them while they are in this facility.
5. To keep all of their scheduled diagnostic or treatment appointments on time.
6. To avoid interfering with treatment or other patients, particularly in emergency situations.
7. To assist by alerting the staff when another patient is having any difficulty.
8. To inform visitors to be considerate of other patients and medical center personnel, and observe the visiting hours.
9. To comply with the smoke-free policy. Smoking is only permitted in designated areas.
10. To be understanding and patient during delays.
11. To make sure there is understanding about the medications to be taken following discharge from the medical center, and whether an outpatient follow-up visit(s) is scheduled.
12. To prevent injury to other patients, visitors, and staff, all motorized scheduled. Wheelchairs will have a maximum speed of 4 mph or less.

Mail & Telephone Services:

Mail Service:

Your mailing address while in the hospital is:

Your Name
Unit (1D or 1E)
SCI Patient Care Center
James J. Peters VA Medical Center
130 West Kingsbridge Road
Bronx, New York 10468

A mailbox is located outside by the flagpole. Letters can also be dropped off at the SCI Main Office 1E-32. Mail is delivered to the unit daily.

Patient Telephones:

Each bed is equipped with a telephone. Patients may make local calls at any time of the day but may not receive calls after 10:00 p.m. or before 6:00 a.m.

Public (Pay) Telephones:

Standard telephones and special telephones (modified for use by the hearing impaired) are located near the main passenger elevators.

Leaving the Grounds & Visitor Information:

Passes:

Your Primary Care Provider must approve any and all passes if and when they are medically indicated. Patients on pass are permitted to leave the hospital grounds, but are required to report to the unit nurse before leaving upon and returning. All SCI patients must return from their pass at the time indicated by their physician. If there is a delay, please contact the unit and inform staff. Patients who return late may be subjected to disciplinary action. If indicated urine screens will be taken.

Visiting Hours:

Visiting hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00p.m. The Care Team Manager or Charge Nurse on the unit has the authority to change these hours, depending on the circumstances.

Kingsbridge Suites (Hoptel):

Visits by close relatives or significant others residing at considerable distances from the medical center can obtain approval to lodge overnight in our Kingsbridge Suites. Arrangements can be made by calling the Spinal Cord Injury Patient Care Center at ext. 5389/5390.

Interdisciplinary Team:

Patient Care Center Director for Spinal Cord Injury

Is responsible for the overall administration and coordination of patient care activities within the Spinal Cord Injury Center. His office location is 1E-32; extension 5390.

Clinical Director, Spinal Cord Injury Program:

This physician is responsible for the coordination and supervision of the medical care provided in the Spinal Cord Injury Patient Care Center. As a physician, he oversees all the medical care provided to you by your physicians. His office location is 1E-32; extension 5391.

Should you require evaluation and/or treatment by another medical specialty, a James J. Peters VA Medical Specialist will be consulted.

Program Management Officer:

Is responsible for assisting the PCCD/Chief of Spinal Cord Injury Program in the overall administration and coordination of the Spinal Cord Injury Patient Care Center. Her office location is 1E-73A; extension 5423.

Primary Care Provider:

While you are a patient, a Primary Care Provider will be responsible for your care. Primary Care Providers are Physicians.

You may also have a Resident, Fellow (doctor in postgraduate training), involved in your care. You and your family are also members of the team. Your Primary Care Provider is responsible for your follow up plans as an outpatient and during subsequent admissions.

Care Team Manager:

The Care Team Manager is responsible for the management of patient care and nursing personnel. Each unit has a Charge Nurse who is supervised by the Care Team Manager. Our Nursing Staff consists of Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Nursing Assistants/Patient Care Associates who provide comprehensive care. Her office location is 1D-70; extension 5404.

Spinal Cord Injury Programs

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation:

On admission you will be evaluated by a Physical Medicine Physician who will submit a consult to our Occupational Therapists, or Physical Therapists, regarding your rehabilitation assessment. These professionals will help you set realistic goals and achieve them. They work as a

- You have the right to have your pain assessed and to receive treatment to manage your pain. You and your treatment team will develop a pain management plan together. You are expected to help the treatment team by telling them if you have pain and if the treatment is working.
- You have the right to choose whether or not you will participate in any research project. Any research will be clearly identified. Potential risks of the research will be identified and there will be no pressure on you to participate.
- You will be included in resolving any ethical issues about your care. If you have ethical issues or concerns, you may speak with the Medical Center's Ethics Consultation Service for help.

4. Concerns or Complaints

- You are encouraged and expected to seek help from your treatment team or a patient advocate if you have problems or complaints. Any privacy complaints will be addressed by the facility Privacy Officer. You will be given understandable information about the complaint process in your preferred language. You may complain verbally or in writing, without fear of retaliation.

- If you believe that you or your family member has been neglected, abused or exploited by VA staff, please report this promptly to the treatment team or patient advocate. You will receive help immediately.

- If you believe the organization has failed to address or satisfy your concerns about health care quality and safety, you may contact the Joint Commission's Office of Quality Monitoring at 1-800-994-6610. If you believe that the organization has failed to address your concerns about suspected criminal activities, fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement, you may contact the VA Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-488-8244 or email vaoighotline@VA.gov.

reporting). You have the right to have access to or request a copy of your own health records.

- Please respect the privacy of other patients and CLC residents and do not reveal their health information that you may overhear or otherwise become aware of.

3. Participation in Treatment Decisions

- You have a right to express your preferences concerning future medical care in an advance directive, including designating a health care agent to make health care decisions on your behalf when you can no longer do so.
- You, and any person(s) you choose, will be involved in all decisions about your care. You will be given information you can understand about the benefits and risks of treatment in your preferred language. You will be given other options. You can agree to or refuse any treatment. You will be told what is likely to happen to you if you refuse a treatment. Refusing a treatment will not affect your rights to future care but you take responsibility for the impact this decision may have on your health.
- Tell your provider about your current condition, medicines (including over-the-counter and herbals), and medical history. Also, share any other information that affects your health. You should ask questions when you do not understand something about your care. This will help us provide you the best care possible.
- You will be given, in writing, the name and title of the provider in charge of your care. You have the right to be involved in choosing your provider. You also have the right to know the names and titles of those who provide you care. This includes students and other trainees. Providers will properly introduce themselves when they take part in your care.
- If you believe you cannot follow the treatment plan, you have a responsibility to tell your provider or treatment team.
- You will be informed of all outcomes of your care, including any possible injuries associated with your care. You will be informed about how to request compensation and other remedies for any serious injuries.

team with your primary care physician and nurse. Your active involvement is required to make your stay as beneficial as possible. You are the most important member of your rehabilitation team, and the success of your team will depend on you.

Since May, 2003 the SCI Program became CARF accredited. We have met internationally recognized standards. It is our aim to focus on customer satisfaction.

Social Work:

Provides counseling and planning services to veterans and their families regarding injury-related concerns such as: finances, accessible/affordable housing options and placement, transportation, general community resources, VA benefits and services. They will assist with the coordination of available resources and referrals essential to accomplishing your treatment goals and discharge planning needs. The Social Worker is the Coordinator for Discharge Planning and will work with the treatment team to best meet your individual needs to ensure a safe discharge.

Psychology:

Provides a full range of psychological services to the SCI patient, including psychological assessment, counseling, and interventions which may help you adjust to the effects of your injury, your general health status, and your rehabilitation. Such interventions may include vocational counseling, marital and family counseling (including issues pertaining to sexuality and sexual functioning), counseling for enhancement of personal and social skills, and patient education.

Nutrition Services:

Dietary services on SCI PCC are provided by both the Clinical Nutrition staff and the Nutrition and Hospitality Service Center.

Clinical Nutrition Services:

A Registered Dietitian (RD) will be assessing your nutritional status upon admission and at regular intervals thereafter. Dietitians specialize in evaluating adequacy of dietary intake and weight status, determining nutrient needs, and recommending therapeutic diets and dietary supplements as needed. In addition, dietitians provide in-depth counseling for a variety of chronic medical conditions that require nutritional intervention including diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease, and heart disease.

SCI Dietitian Contact Information:

Lisa Garner, MS, RD, CDN

Location: 1E-78/Extension 5793

Nutrition and Hospitality Service Center:

The James J. Peters VA Food Service System uses a 3-week cycle

menu for their meal planning. Additionally, Select Menus are available for certain individuals on liberalized diets. The Dietitian will determine if you are appropriate for Select Menus. If you receive select menus, the Foodservice Hostess will be responsible for delivering your menus, assisting you if needed, and collecting the menus.

Health Technician/Foodservice Hostess Contact Information:

Ms. Wynnel Hill Ms. Shirley Williams
Extension: 5592 Extension: 5594

Alida Acevedo-Hernandez, RN MIO

The SCI-MIO Coordinator (Management of Information Outcomes) is responsible for the management and oversight of programs related to continuous readiness, accreditation, peer review, and data collection for the Spinal Cord Injury population. The SCI-MIO Coordinator has knowledge regarding conducting and reporting quality improvement measures, and facilitating the information and outcomes management process, during both the assessment and care planning phases of inpatient, outpatient, and extended care, improving outcomes at the program or service level. Her office location is 1E-77; extension: 5877.

SCI Computer Clinic:

The SCI Computer Clinic offers access to computer systems and the Internet, training classes for groups & individuals, and "Help Desk" support for those with home computers.

The clinic is available for all veterans receiving treatment at the James J. Peters VAMC's Spinal Cord Treatment Facility. This includes both inpatients and outpatients. The clinic is open Monday thru Friday from 9:00am to 4:30pm (additional hours may be made available by request).

Prosthetic and Sensory Aids:

Provides you with a wide variety of items and services that may be prescribed by a member of your SCI Primary Care Team. Examples of the items and services include wheelchairs, home-care equipment, bathroom safety equipment, auto adaptive equipment, orthotic and prosthetic appliances. Prosthetic and Sensory Aids can also assist you with home modifications or structural alterations that might be necessary for your return home. If you would like more information on these services, please stop by or talk to your physician regarding your special needs.

Therapeutic Recreation:

Provides programs to help you regain, sustain or develop leisure skills

as they are safe and legal.

- You have the right to social interaction and regular exercise. You will have the opportunity for religious worship and spiritual support. You may decide whether to participate in these activities. You may decide whether or not to perform tasks in or for the Medical Center or in the Community Living Center.
- You have the right to communicate freely and privately. You will have access to public telephones and VA will assist you in sending and receiving mail. You may participate in civic rights, such as voting and free speech.
- When a loved one is involved in support and care of a VA patient or CLC resident, VA considers a patient or CLC resident's *family* to include anyone related to the patient or CLC resident in any way (for example, biologically or legally) and anyone whom the patient or CLC resident considers to be family. If you are an inpatient, any persons you choose can be with you to support you during your stay. Medical staff may restrict visitors for inpatients if medical or safety concerns require it. You will be told promptly about any visitor restriction and the reason for it.
- In order to provide a safe treatment environment for all patients or CLC residents and staff, you and your visitors are expected to avoid unsafe acts that place others at risk for accidents or injuries. Please immediately report any condition you believe to be unsafe.

2. Information Disclosure and Confidentiality

- Your privacy will be protected.
- You will be given information about the health benefits you can receive. The information will be provided in a way you can understand.
- You will receive information about the costs of your care (for example, co-payments), if any, before you are treated. You are responsible for paying your portion of any costs associated with your care.
- Your health record will be kept confidential. Information about you will not be released without your authorization unless permitted by law (an example of this is State public health

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is pleased you have selected us to provide your health care. We will provide you with personalized, patient-driven, compassionate, state-of-the-art care. Our goal is to make your experience as positive and pleasant as we can. As part of our service to you, to other Veterans and to the Nation, we are committed to improving health care quality. We also train future health care professionals, conduct research, and support our country in times of national emergency. In all of these activities, our employees will respect and support your rights as a patient or resident of a community living center (CLC). Your basic rights and responsibilities are outlined in this document. You will receive this information in your preferred language. Please talk with the VA treatment team members who are providing your care or to a patient advocate if you have any questions or would like more information about your rights and responsibilities.

1. Nondiscrimination and Respect

- You will be treated with dignity, compassion, and respect as an individual. Consistent with Federal law, VA policy, and accreditation standards of The Joint Commission, you will not be subject to discrimination for any reason, including for reasons of age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.
- You will receive care in a safe environment free from excess noise, and with sufficient light to ensure comfort and safety.
- You have a right to have access to the outdoors.
- We will seek to honor your cultural and personal values, beliefs, and preferences. We ask that you identify any cultural, religious, or spiritual beliefs or practices that influence your care.
- You or someone you choose has the right to keep and spend your money. You have the right to receive an accounting of any funds that VA is holding for you.
- We will respect your personal freedoms in the care and treatment we provide you. This includes trying to accommodate your normal sleep and wake cycles, food likes and dislikes, and other personal preferences.
- You have the right to keep and use personal items as long

and interests. Recreational education is an essential component to your rehabilitation. Our professionals will help you discover the many leisure opportunities and resources available to people with a spinal cord injury. Our Therapeutic Recreation Specialist encourages the patients to take advantage of the many Community Reintegration Outings that are scheduled for you as in-patients. Taking part in Community Reintegration Outings will help you address wheelchair accessibility issues that you may encounter after discharge.

Our Spinal Cord Patient Care Center encourages participation in wheelchair sporting events. Our Therapeutic Recreation Specialist works with our SCI veterans in the many different athletic events. Yearly, both inpatients and outpatients take part in the National Wheelchair Games and the National Winter Sports Clinic.

Pastoral Care:

Each patient's personal, cultural, spiritual, and religious values will be respected by all who care for them. Your own pastor or spiritual caregiver will be able to minister to you, or a staff chaplain will provide pastoral care appropriate to your religious convictions. During your hospitalization, you have the right to participate in public worship and to practice private devotions as your health permits. Here in the Medical Center you have the right to be free from proselytism or any religious or spiritual coercion.

Chaplains are provided to ensure these rights. For details of our religious services and pastoral care program, please see the section on "Chaplains" under Medical Center Support Programs.

Chaplains:

Chaplains give pastoral care to patients and their families, with full respect for patients' religious convictions and for their relationships with their own pastors and faith communities.

Chaplains conduct religious services (Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, and Protestant traditions), arrange interfaith observances on holidays, and provide appropriate space for private prayer and meditation. Weekly services are conducted in the historic Interfaith Chapel, which is fully accessible by wheelchair or stretcher from the second floor of the CLC; these services are broadcast by closed circuit television throughout the Medical Center on channel 12. Daily services are conducted in the Interfaith Chapel on the second floor of the CLC (Community Living Center formerly called the Nursing Home). A weekly schedule of services is available at each ward's nurses station. The Interfaith Chapel, the Devotional Room, and the Eucharistic Reservation Room (4B-46), are available around the clock for individual prayer or meditation, except

when services are scheduled there.

Spiritual care and guidance are provided in chaplains' offices or at bedside. Pastoral counsel may be scheduled through our Program Assistant; call extension 5455 or visit room 4B-53 for an appointment. As part of the clinical staff, chaplains assess your spiritual needs to assure that all members of the health care team understand and respect your spiritual and religious values, as these affect your total care.

Bereavement counsel and support are offered to patients' families. Interfaith memorial programs are arranged periodically in conjunction with the Supportive Care program.

Home Care:

This program is available upon discharge from the clinical setting or as need arises in the residential setting. If you feel you would benefit from Care Coordination from a home perspective, the James J. Peters VA offers team-focused care-coordination for the Veteran with Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder (SCI/D). If you are interested in finding out more about the SCI Home Care Program, please speak with your Primary Care Physician.

Telehealth:

Our Telehealth Program offers the right care, at the right time, in the right place, for all spinal cord injury (SCI) and disability Veterans.

We are able to monitor the clinical consequences of SCI, such as wounds, hypertension, diabetes mellitus, congestive heart failure, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease as well as conduct post-discharge follow up after acute inpatient rehabilitation. The SCI team can provide virtual consultation via state of the art teleconferencing unit from our SCI Clinic throughout the VA network. Our clinicians conduct individual visits via webcam with the Veterans in the convenience and privacy of their home.

Rights & Responsibilities:

Advance Directives:

You have the right to discuss with your doctor, nurse, psychologist or social worker any Advance Directives or plans for health care decision making you may have written prior to admission to the Medical Center. If you have not completed an Advance Directive prior to your admission to the hospital, you can request assistance in completing one upon admission. Advance Directives protect your right to accept or refuse medical treatment if you ever became mentally or physically unable to choose or communicate your choices due to illness or injury. Advance Directives can be changed, or revoked by you at any time.

Advance Directives, such as Living Wills or Treatment Preferences, allow you, in advance of illness or incapacity, to state your personal

choices for starting or stopping certain medical treatments, requesting Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) and/or Do Not Intubate (DNI) orders, donating organs, or using life prolonging procedures and equipment.

Advance Directives, such as Health Care Proxy or Durable Power of Attorney, allows you to name the person that you wish to make health care decisions should you become medically unable in the future to make them for yourself.

Under New York State law you have the right to designate a Health Care Proxy. An Advance Directive from New York or any state in which they are legal will be honored by this VA Medical Center and placed in your medical record. Advance Directives are carried out only after you are declared medically unable to make informed health care decisions. As mentioned above, you may initiate a VA Advance Directives after admission to the medical center. Your doctor will provide any medical information you may need and other staff can provide counseling and help with any concerns you may have about writing such a directive.

Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) and Do Not Intubate (DNI):

It is the policy of this medical center to support the expressed wishes of the patient who is capable of participating in the DNR and/or DNI decision making process. Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) will continue to be administered to every patient who sustains a cardiac arrest, if the medical record does not contain a DNR order. Intubation will continue to be administered to every patient in respiratory distress where the medical record does not contain a DNI order.

If you wish further information about these decisions, speak with your doctor. Your doctor will obtain your written, informed consent, or the consent of your next of kin, legal guardian or other adult over the age of 18 appointed by you to make such a decision. Such an order is reviewed regularly and the decision may be changed at any time.

Organ Donations:

The VA participates in the New York Organ donation program and cooperates with approved agencies such as the Eye Bank. You may choose to become an organ donor even if you have not written any Advance Directives. If you wish to give the gift of life and be considered as a potential organ donor-speak with your doctor.

Your doctor will let you know if your medical condition allows you to be a suitable organ donor and will obtain your written, informed consent or the consent of your next of kin, legal guardian, or other adult over the age of 18 appointed by you to make such a decision. The decision may be changed at any time.

Patient Rights and Responsibilities