

Speak Up: For Your Rights

When my daughter fractured her wrist last season, I wanted to make sure I knew everything I could about her injury, and I also learned she has rights as a patient.

Hello, our daughter injured her wrist at her basketball game.

OK, let me get some information, and we'll get you checked in so you can see a doctor as soon as possible.

Just as the poster says, all players — umm, I mean patients — have the right to be treated with courtesy and respect.

Thanks. I just have a few more questions. This shouldn't take much longer

Tengo miedo papa." ("I'm scared, Dad.")

Se Fuerte cariño" ("Be strong, sweetie.")

And we have the right to an interpreter if we need one.

Would your family like a language interpreter?

No, but we appreciate the offer.

Looks like we'll need a X-ray.

OK, but can my dad stay with me?

Sure, hon, just like I was there for your dad when he hurt his elbow.

You also have the right to have an advocate with you. An advocate can ask questions even when the patient can't.

And you have the right to make decisions about your care.

Now, this part I was especially proud of, because being active in your care by asking questions and informing caregivers of your concerns is important.

Will my retainer affect the X-ray?

Katie, that is a really good question. But, since we only need a X-ray of your wrist, you won't have to take it off.

Nice try, though!

We also asked for a copy of the test results and medical records, which is one of our rights.

And if you ever think something is wrong, ask to speak to a patient representative and work with the facility to address the issue.

Speak Up for Your Rights. It will help you make better decisions and take an active role in your care!