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**Rights of Access to Healthcare**

**by the users of the National Health System**

(Law nr. 15/2014, 21st of March)

**Rights of the health services users**

*Right to choose*

\* The health service users have the right to choose the services and the

healthcare providers according to the existing resources.

\* The right to health protection is achieved according to the organisation

rules of the health services.

*Consent or refusal*

\* The consent refusal of the healthcare provision must be declared in a

free and enlightened manner except special provision by law

\* The health service users may cancel the consent in any moment of the

healthcare provision.

*Suitability of the healthcare provision*

\* The healthcare service users have the right to get, immediately or in a

clinically acceptable period of time, as appropriate, the healthcare they

need.

\* The health service users have the right to the most appropriate and

technically correct healthcare provision.

\* All healthcare must be provided with humanity and respect for the user.

*Personal data and private life protection*

\* The health service users have the right to reservation of private life and

the personal data protection.

\* The legislation that regulates the personal data 1 is applicable to data

processing in the health area, assuring that the data collected are

adequate, relevant and not excessive for the pursued purposes.

\* The health service users have the right to accessing to all collected

personal data and they may require the rectification of any incorrect

information and the inclusion of fully or partially missing information,

under the law in force for personal data protection2.

*Secrecy*

\* Healthcare users have the right to secrecy about their personal data.

\* Health professionals are bound by the duty of confidentiality in relation

to the facts that they have taken knowledge during their duties, except

any different legislation or judicial decision requiring disclosure.

*Right to information*

\* The health service users have the right to be informed by the healthcare

provider about their situation, possible treatment alternatives and the

likely evolution state.

\* The information must be transmitted in an accessible, objective and

comprehensive manner.

1 article 5, Law nr. 67/98, 26th October

2 article 11, Law nr. 67/98, 26th October

*Spiritual and religious assistance*

\* The healthcare service users have the right to religious assistance no

matter what religion you they have.

\* Legal churches or religious communities must be provided with the

conditions that allow spiritual and religious assistance, when requiring,

to in-patients in the National Health Services hospital, according to

applicable legislation3

*Complaints*

\* The healthcare service users have the right to complain and file a

complaint in hospitals, in accordance with the law, as well as receiving

compensation for damaged suffered.

\* Complaints may be presented in the book of complaints or in person

and, according to the law, the answer to the complaint it is compulsory.

\* The health services, health goods and services suppliers and health

operators must have the complaints book ready to be used by anyone.

*Right to association*

\* The healthcare service users have the right to create entities that

represent them and defend their interests.

\* The healthcare service users may create entities that collaborate with

the healthcare system, in particular associations for the promotion and

protection of health or groups of friends in hospitals.

3 decree-law nr. 253/2009, 23rd of September

*Minors and incapable people*

\* The law should provide the conditions where legal representatives of

minors and incapable may use the rights that assist them, in particular

refusing assistance, in compliance with the constitutional principles.