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# PATIENT SAFETY TIPS

At Homestead Hospital, we know how important it is for you to feel safe and trust the care that we deliver. Our staff and hospital administration is committed to your safety and well-being. We are constantly questioning if we can do things in a better, more efficient, and safer manner. To help you, the patient, take charge of your care and assist us in providing a safe environment, we are providing this safety information to you with a motto to keep in mind.

## Always remember to be S.A.F.E.

**Safety First:** Make sure you and/or your family know your allergies and medication.

**Ask, Ask, Ask...** Know all the who, what, where, when, and why about the care and treatment you or your family members are to receive. A professional Registered Nurse directs the nursing care you will be receiving. Other health care staff will be involved in your care. Expect everyone to identify themselves.

**Feel Respected:** You and your family have a right to be treated with respect, dignity, and confidentiality. Never forget that your opinion counts.

**Educate:** Educate yourself and your family in partnership with your health care provider. Learn all you can about your illness and treatment options.

## General Safety

**Call lights:** Each bed has a call light device. The nursing staff will demonstrate how to use it. It is important to keep it within reach. Please use it to call the nurse for help. A call light device is also available in every bathroom.

**Getting up:** If the physician permits getting out of bed alone, it is important to move slowly from bed to chair, requesting help if needed. If oxygen or other type of equipment is in use, please ask for assistance getting out of bed.

**Smoke free facility:** To ensure your safety and the safety of your visitors, especially those with oxygen, Homestead Hospital is a smoke free facility.

**You are an important part of the health care team. Please help us by bringing to our attention any safety concerns you observe.**

## Medication Safety

The most important thing you can do to ensure medication safety is to be an active partner in your own health care. We encourage you to question the medications you are receiving and to ask the nurse what the medication does and the potential side effects. Some helpful tips for safe medication use are as follows:

- ◆ State all medications you are taking. Include prescription drugs, as well as over-the-counter medications and herbal supplements.
- ◆ Complete your full prescription and take all your medication as prescribed.
- ◆ Keep a record of any prescription medications you are taking. Carry a copy in your purse or wallet.
- ◆ Take a record of the medications prescribed at discharge to your physician when you go to your follow-up visit.