

CHECK LIST FOR HOSPITALIZATION



Hospitals can be frightening even to the bravest patient: A maze of corridors filled with people in “scrubs,” scurrying around and issuing orders just when you are feeling your worst. Here is a checklist to help you get ready and make your hospital visit as comfortable as possible.

- Ask your doctor to explain the purpose of your hospitalization and what will happen.
- If you are having surgery, ask your surgeon to talk you through it, from anesthesia to the operation to recovery time and the expected outcome.
- Ask a family member or friend to come with you and serve as your advocate.
- Have legal documents in order, called “advance directives” or “health care directives.” Provide copies to your hospital, doctor, family and advocate.
- Make sure that the hospital has your accurate, up-to-date medical records.
- Comply with hospital requests for pre-admission tests and paperwork, including health insurance information.
- Clarify with your health insurance carrier what is covered and what may not be covered during your stay.
- Make sure the hospital provides you with a written copy of your patient rights.
- Pack a small bag with essentials, but leave valuables at home.
- Do not bring your own medications to the hospital.
- Upon admission, verify that your identification band is correct. Do not remove it.
- Be sure your chart reflects the drugs you must take regularly, and drug allergies.
- Ask questions about new medications: What is this, and why am I taking it?
- Limit hugs with visitors in order to minimize germs, and ask hospital staff to wash their hands in your presence.
- Before you are discharged, get instructions for post-hospitalization care.
- After you are home, call the hospital and/or your doctor if you have unusual or painful after-effects. In an emergency, dial 911.

Your own questions and notes:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

**SEARC
DENNEY
SCAROLA
BARNHART
& SHIPLEY PA**
Attorneys at Law

A Passion for Justice™