

 ROSWELL PARK <small>COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER</small>	Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center Policy and Procedure	Date Issued: 5/1/1997	Number: 120.1
Title: Ethics Governing Patient Care Issues	Revision: 12	Effective Date: 3/11/2024	
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A. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to describe the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center (Roswell Park) code of ethical behavior that addresses patient respect and informed consent, conflict of interest, patient billing practices, confidentiality, admission, transfer and discharge practices, marketing practices, purchasing practices, and commitment to employees. All members of the Roswell Park workforce including employees of Health Research, Inc. (HRI), the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation, volunteers, and the Board of Directors, shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with this organizational statement and its supporting policies. This policy and procedure is to be followed in conjunction with the [Roswell Park Corporate Code of Conduct](#).

Roswell Park is dedicated to excellence in research, education, training, patient care, and community relations. Roswell Park and its employees strive to provide high-quality, safe patient care, while preserving and enhancing the dignity and humanity of that care. Roswell Park is dedicated to providing comprehensive cancer care in a non-discriminatory manner to all persons in need regardless of their ability to pay.

B. SCOPE

This policy applies to the entire Roswell Park workforce as described above.

C. ADMINISTRATION

The Administration is responsible for application of this policy.

D. POLICY / PROCEDURE

The Board of Directors and all employees and volunteers of Roswell Park must adhere to established ethical guidelines in the provision of all aspects of patient care.

1. Mission and Vision Statements

Roswell Park’s mission is to eliminate cancer’s grip on humanity-by unlocking its secrets through personalized approaches and unleashing the healing power of hope. Our vision is to free our world from the fear, pain and loss due to cancer-one act of compassion, one breakthrough discovery, one-life-changing therapy at a time-until cancer is gone. Roswell

Park is committed to providing comprehensive cancer care incorporating ethical principles, professional standards, governing laws and healthcare position statements in all aspects of patient care.

Each patient must be assured the broad range of rights stated in Title 10 of the New York State Hospital Code Rules and Regulations, Section 405.7. (Also see [Policy 408.8](#) Patient's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.)

All patients at Roswell Park should be accorded:

1. Consideration, respect, and full recognition of their individuality and personal needs, including their cultural, psychosocial and spiritual beliefs.
2. The right to privacy to the extent consistent with providing quality medical care to the patient.
3. Equal treatment with no discrimination related to sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, race, creed, color, national origin, military status, disability, pre-disposing genetic characteristics, familial status, marital status, criminal history, or status as a victim of domestic violence ("Protected Class"), or source of payment for care.

Open and honest communication should occur with all patients and/or their designated representatives with regard to the medical care provided. Patients and/or their representatives should be involved in the decision-making process regarding the care that is provided. All patients should be informed of the significant risks and alternatives associated with the care they are receiving including supportive and comfort care treatment options and goals of care. Roswell Park will continually seek to understand each patient's objectives for care and respect their requests. Research involving human subjects will only be performed with the fully informed consent of the patient and in compliance with Institutional Review Board (IRB) policies and procedures, and applicable law.

III. Resolution of Patient Care Conflicts

Roswell Park recognizes the need to resolve conflicts that arise among those who participate in patient care decisions. Staff will seek to resolve all conflicts fairly, objectively, and in a timely manner. Ethical issues involving patients that cannot be resolved by strict policy interpretation, should be presented to the Ethics Committee. Please refer to [Policy 408.15](#).

IV. Fairness in Billing Practices

Patients in a hospital in New York State have the right to receive an itemized bill and explanation of all charges.

Billing practices are guided by a regulatory framework, external to Roswell Park. Both Roswell Park and the Clinical Practice Plan, which provide billable services to patients, will invoice only for the services provided. Bills will be disbursed in a timely and confidential manner. Assistance will be provided to patients in need of assistance in understanding the costs related to their care ([Policy # 421.1](#)). Roswell Park will attempt to resolve questions and objections that arise pertaining to the cost of services to the patient's satisfaction, while considering the best interests of the organization.

V. Confidentiality of Personal and Health Related Information

Federal and New York State laws and regulations ensure the privacy and confidentiality of protected health information and personal information about patients. The necessity of maintaining the confidentiality of such information and records is recognized by Roswell Park and is a mandatory obligation of all members of the Roswell Park workforce (as defined in Section A). The specific rules and regulations governing the use and disclosure of "protected health information" at Roswell Park are set forth generally in Roswell Park Policy #[408.10](#).

All patients shall receive an up to date copy of the Roswell Park Notice of Patient Privacy Practices at the time of their admission or outpatient registration. In addition, said Notice shall be posted on the Roswell Park external website, and copies shall be posted and made available in the Roswell Park Ambulatory Clinics.

VI. Admission, Transfer and Discharge Practices

Admission of patients for treatment takes place in the Patient Access Department or on the inpatient units (in the event of a transfer from another hospital). Patient Access must ensure that all patients or their representatives receive and understand their rights and responsibilities.

Patients with a diagnosis of cancer or suspicion of malignancy shall be admitted if medically indicated, except those patients whose complete care cannot be assured by virtue of staffing or physical facility limitations. All patients treated at Roswell Park are transferred or discharged in accordance with applicable standards of care, laws, rules and regulations. Such transfers or discharges shall be as medically indicated by the patient's condition or, for the welfare of other patients where necessary for their safety. Advance notice shall be given to ensure orderly transfer or discharge.

E. DISTRIBUTION

This Policy and Procedure will be distributed to all Roswell Park Managers via the Roswell Park internal web page and to holders of backup hard copies of the manual. Managers are responsible for communicating policy content to pertinent staff.