

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19

S.163

An act relating to the role of advanced practice registered nurses in hospital care

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 1851 is amended to read:

§ 1851. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) “Advanced practice registered nurse” or “APRN” means an individual licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 28, subchapter 2.

(2) “Hospital” means a hospital required to be licensed under chapter 43 of this title.

~~(2)~~(3) “Patient” means a person an individual admitted to a hospital on an inpatient basis.

(4) “Physician” means an individual licensed under 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 or 33.

Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. § 1852 is amended to read:

§ 1852. PATIENTS’ BILL OF RIGHTS; ADOPTION

(a) The General Assembly hereby adopts the “Bill of Rights for Hospital Patients” as follows:

1           (1) The patient has the right to considerate and respectful care at all  
2 times and under all circumstances with recognition of ~~his or her~~ the patient's  
3 personal dignity.

4           (2) The patient shall have an attending physician or APRN who is  
5 responsible for coordinating a the patient's care.

6           (3) The patient has the right to obtain, from the physician or APRN  
7 coordinating ~~his or her~~ the patient's care, complete and current information  
8 concerning diagnosis, treatment, and any known prognosis in terms the patient  
9 can reasonably be expected to understand. If the patient consents or if the  
10 patient is incompetent or unable to understand, immediate family members or a  
11 guardian may also obtain this information. The patient has the right to know  
12 by name the attending physician or APRN primarily responsible for  
13 coordinating ~~his or her~~ the patient's care.

14           (4) Except in emergencies, the patient has the right to receive from the  
15 patient's physician or APRN information necessary to give informed consent  
16 prior to the start of any procedure or treatment, or both. Such information for  
17 informed consent should include the specific procedure or treatment, or both;  
18 the medically significant risks involved; and the probable duration of  
19 incapacitation. Where medically significant alternatives for care or treatment  
20 exist, or when the patient requests information concerning medical alternatives,  
21 the patient has the right to such information. The patient also has the right to

1 know the name of the person responsible for the procedures or treatment, or  
2 both.

3 \* \* \*

4 (7) The patient has the right to expect that all communications and  
5 records pertaining to ~~his or her~~ the patient's care shall be treated as  
6 confidential. Only medical personnel, or individuals under the supervision of  
7 medical personnel, directly treating the patient, or those persons monitoring the  
8 quality of that treatment, or researching the effectiveness of that treatment,  
9 shall have access to the patient's medical records. Others may have access to  
10 those records only with the patient's written authorization.

11 \* \* \*

12 (9) The patient has the right to know the identity and professional status  
13 of individuals providing service to ~~him or her~~ the patient and to know which  
14 physician, APRN, or other practitioner is primarily responsible for ~~his or her~~  
15 the patient's care. This includes the patient's right to know of the existence of  
16 any professional relationship among individuals who are treating ~~him or her~~  
17 the patient, as well as the relationship to any other health care or educational  
18 institutions involved in ~~his or her~~ the patient's care.

19 \* \* \*



