TEJAS HEALTH CARE

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890 E. Travis Street
La Grange, TX 78945

275 Ellinger Road
La Grange, TX 78945

185 Decker Drive
Giddings, TX 78942

PATIENT AND CENTER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Patient Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Welcome to Tejas Health Care. Our goal is to provide quality health care to qualified persons in this community, regardless of their ability to pay. As a patient, you have rights and responsibilities. Tejas Health Care also has rights and responsibilities. We want you to understand these rights and responsibilities so you can help us provide better health care for you. Please read and sign this statement and ask us questions you might have.

A. Human Rights

You have a right to be treated with respect regardless of race, color, marital status, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental handicap or disability, age (over 40), Vietnam era veteran status, or other grounds not permitted by applicable federal state and local laws or regulations.

B. Payment For Services

1. You are responsible for giving staff accurate information about your present financial status and any changes in your financial status. Tejas Health Care requires this information to calculate charges owed by you and/or to bill private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, or other benefits for which you are eligible. If your income is less that the federal poverty guidelines, you may be charged a discounted fee.
2. You have a right to receive explanations of Tejas' bill. You must pay, or arrange to pay, all agreed fees for medical, services, with the exception of dental services which are provided on a prepaid basis. If you cannot pay right away please let staff know so they can provide care for you now and work out a payment plan.
3. Federal law prohibits Tejas from denying you primary health care health services which are medically necessary, solely because you cannot pay for these services.

C. Privacy

You have a right to have your interviews, examinations and treatment in privacy. Your medical records are also private. Only legally authorized persons may see your medical records unless you request in writing for us to show them to, or copy them for, someone else. A complete discussion of your privacy rights will be given to you along with this document and is named Tejas' Notice of Privacy Practices. Staff will request that you acknowledge your receipt of our Notice of Privacy Practices. The Notice of Privacy of Practices sets forth the ways in which your medical records may be used or disclosed by Tejas and the rights granted to you under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability ("HIPAA").

D. Health Care

1. You are responsible for providing Tejas complete and current information about your health or illness, so that we can give you proper health care. You have a right, and are encouraged, to participate in decision about your treatment.
2. You have a right to information and explanations in the language you normally speak and in words that you understand. You have a right to information about your health or illness, treatment plan, including the nature of the reasonable alternatives, if any (and their risks and benefits); and the expected outcome, if known. This information is called obtain your informed consent.
3. You have the right to receive information regarding "Advance Directives." If you do not wish to receive this information, or if it is not medically advisable to share that information with you, we will provide it to your legally Authorized Representative.
4. You are responsible for appropriate use of center services, which includes following staff instructions, making and keeping scheduled appointments, and requesting a "walk in" appointment only when you are ill. Center professionals may not be able to see you unless you have an appointment. If you are unable to follow instructions from the staff, please tell them so they can help you.

5. If you are an adult, you have a right to refuse treatment or procedures to the extent permitted by applicable laws and regulations. In this regard, you have the right to be informed of the risks, hazards, and consequences of you refusing such treatment or procedures. Your receipt of this information is necessary so that your refusal will be "informed". You are responsible for the consequences and outcome of refusing recommended treatment or procedures. If you refuse treatment or procedures that your healthcare providers believe is in your best interest, you may be asked to sign a Refusal to Permit Medical Treatment or Services form or Against Medical Advice form (as appropriate).
6. You have a right to health care and treatment that is reasonable for your condition and within our capability, however, Tejas is not an emergency care facility. You have a right to be transferred or referred to another facility for services that Tejas cannot provide. Tejas does not pay for services that you receive from another healthcare provider.
7. If you are in pain, you have a right to receive an appropriate assessment and pain management, as necessary.

E. Center Rules

1. You have a right to receive information on how to appropriately use Tejas' services. You are responsible for using Tejas' services in an appropriate manner. If you have any questions, please ask us.
2. You are responsible for the supervision of children you bring with you to Tejas. You are responsible for your children's safety and the protection of other patients and our property.
3. You have a responsibility to keep your scheduled appointments. Missed scheduled appointments cause delay in treating other patients.

F. Complaints

1. If you are not satisfied with our services, please tell us. We want suggestions so can we can improve our services. Staff will tell you how to file a complaint. If you are not satisfied with how the staff handles your complaint, you may complain to Tejas' Governing Board.
2. If you complain, no center representative will punish, discriminate, or retaliate against you for filing a complaint, and Tejas will continue to provide you services.

G. Termination

If Tejas decides that we must stop treating you as a patient, you have a right to advance written notice that explains the reason for the decision, and you will be given thirty (30) days to find other health care services. However, Tejas can decide to stop treating you immediately, and without written notice, if you have created a threat to the safety of the staff and/or other patients. You have a right to receive a copy of Tejas' Termination of the Patient and Center Relationship Policy and Procedure.

Reasons for which we may stop seeing you include:

1. Failure to obey Center rules and policies, such as keeping scheduled appointments;
2. Intentional failure to report accurately your financial status;
3. Intentional failure to report accurate information concerning your health or illness;
4. Intentional failure to follow the health care programs, such instructions about taking medications, personal health practices, or follow up appointments, as recommended by your healthcare provider(s), and/or
5. Creating a threat to the safety of the staff and/or other patients.

H. Appeals

If Tejas has given you notice of termination of the patient and Center relationship, you have the right to appeal the decision to the Governing Board. Unless you have a medical emergency, we will not continue to see you as a patient while you are appealing the decision.

_____ _____

Signature Date