

Responsibilities of the Orthopaedic Patient (Revised July 2014)

Successful treatment is nearly always the result of a constructive partnership between the patient and the clinical team. As patients we have responsibilities to match our expectations.

We should:

- 1.** Be punctual for our appointments and inform the hospital if we are unable to keep an appointment. We should also try to avoid cancelling an appointment at short notice unless we have a good reason.
- 2.** Inform the hospital of any change of address or change in circumstances.
- 3.** Prepare for consultations: it helps to have a list of symptoms, current medications and allergies. It is often helpful to have a relative or a friend accompany us.
- 4.** Follow the advice given by clinicians. If we find it difficult to comply, we should discuss our reasons or concerns with the clinical team.
- 5.** Read carefully any hospital literature we are given.
- 6.** Make sure that we understand all aspects of the information told to us, and given to us. We should ask for clarification if there are any doubts, or queries.
- 7.** Try to be courteous to all staff at all times and express our appreciation when appropriate.
- 8.** Adhere strictly to the rules of hospital hygiene and expect hospital staff to do so. We should report to the senior nurse any concerns we may have about cleanliness.
- 9.** Be considerate to other patients in the outpatient department and on the ward, particularly when using electronic equipment.
- 10.** Take careful note of information given, including medication, dates for future appointments and help-line numbers.
- 11.** Ensure that our GP is informed of our treatment.