



**Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association**

**Association canadienne de soins palliatifs**

## **A Patient's Bill of Rights**

Courtesy of "Living Lessons"™ - A Joint Initiative of The GlaxoSmithKline Foundation and The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association

As a person facing the end of my life, I have the right to:

- \* Be treated as a living human being until I die.
- \* Live free of pain.
- \* Participate in the decisions that affect me and my quality of life.
- \* Have my decisions and choices respected and followed, even though they may be contrary to the wishes of others.
- \* Be treated with openness and honesty without deception or half-truths.
- \* Receive ongoing medical and nursing care even though the goals must be changed from cure to comfort.
- \* Express my feelings and emotions about my approaching death in my own way.
- \* Maintain a sense of hopefulness, however changing its focus might be.
- \* Be cared for by those who can maintain a sense of hopefulness, however changing its focus might be.
- \* Discuss and enlarge my spiritual and religious experiences, regardless of what they mean to others.
- \* Be cared for by compassionate, sensitive and knowledgeable people who will attempt to understand my needs and try to meet them.
- \* Receive support from and for my loved ones in learning how to accept my death.
- \* Die in peace and with dignity.

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