



Notice of Patients' Rights under the Allen County Patient Safety Ordinance



The Board Commissioners of the County of Allen passed the Allen County Patient Safety Ordinance (hereinafter "Ordinance") on June 25, 2010, finding it necessary for the safe and effective continuing care for patients of Itinerant Medical Providers in Allen County. The Ordinance is codified at Title 10, Article 10 of the Allen County Code of Ordinances..

Under the Ordinance, an "Itinerant Medical Provider" (a physician who lives outside Allen County or a contiguous county; and who does not have admitting privileges in Allen County or a county contiguous county) shall provide to the Fort Wayne - Allen County Department of Health ("Department"), as well as all Allen County operating hospitals, emergency departments and urgent care providers, emergency contact information for the Itinerant Medical Provider and his or her Physician Designee to facilitate sharing of clinical knowledge and arranging of disposition in emergency situations. This contact information must include the Itinerant Medical Provider's name, medical license number and a phone number where they may be reached on a twenty four (24) hour a day, seven (7) day a week basis. The same information must be provided for the Physician Designee.

Itinerant Medical Providers must file the emergency contact information with the Department, and with all Allen County operating hospitals, emergency departments and urgent care providers. The Providers must also notify their patients orally and in writing of the emergency contact information for use if complications arise and keep a permanent record of such written notification signed by the Patient to whom it was provided.

Facilities employing Itinerant Medical Providers or allowing said medical providers to perform procedures in their facilities must ensure that Itinerant Medical Providers comply with the provisions of the Ordinance, must display a certificate of compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance in view of Patients at the main entrance of the Facility, and must display written materials prepared or approved by the Department explaining a Patient's rights under this ordinance. These materials shall include information on how to report violations and shall include information regarding the Department's duties to investigate.

The Department shall keep record of emergency contact information of each Itinerant Medical Provider located in Allen County, annually inspect written documentation to insure compliance, and act as the enforcement body for the Ordinance.

If a patient believes that an Itinerant Medical Provider or a facility operator has failed to comply with the Ordinance or has committed a violation of the Ordinance, the patient may report such failure or violation to the Fort Wayne - Allen County Department of Health or to the current County Health Officer for investigation by the Department or Health Officer. Any such report can be made by contacting Deborah A. McMahan, MD (Health Commissioner) at 260-449-7561.