

# PATIENT'S RIGHTS

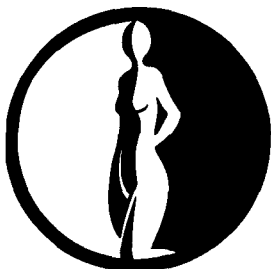
Many women do not know that they have rights within the health care system. As a patient, you have legal rights that are based on Canadian laws and court decisions.

## AS A PATIENT YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- have a friend or family member with you during your appointment and examination
- be treated with dignity and respect
- ask questions about your health
- receive good explanations that you can understand
- disagree with your health care provider
- get a second opinion
- say no to, or refuse, treatment
- have access to your medical records and read them
- enjoy confidentiality and privacy
- decide the future of your health care
- change doctors

## YOUR DOCTOR SHOULD:

- listen to you
- pay attention to what is happening in your life
- touch you in a gentle and professional manner during a physical exam
- ask you if what they are doing is uncomfortable or hurts
- explain what they are doing
- ask if you'd like a nurse present in the room, if the doctor is male
- accept your lifestyle
- not make assumptions about your life
- accept your use of complementary or traditional treatment
- keep what you tell them private and confidential
- return phone calls in a reasonable amount of time



*Vancouver Women's Health Collective*  
*Women speaking out for safe,*  
*respectful and appropriate health care for women*

**For more information please contact us:**

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