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The NAWCH Charter

1. Children shall be admitted to hospital only if the care they require cannot be equally well provided at home or on a day basis.
2. Children in hospital shall have the right to have their parents with them at all times provided this is in the best interest of the child. Accommodation shall therefore be offered to all parents, and they should be helped and encouraged to stay. In order to share in the care of their child, parents should be fully informed about ward routine and their active participation encouraged.
3. Children and/or their parents shall have the right to information appropriate to age and understanding.
4. Children and / or their parents shall have the right to informed participation in all decisions involving their health care. Every child shall be protected from unnecessary medical treatment and steps taken to mitigate physical and emotional distress.
5. Children shall be treated with tact and understanding and at all times their privacy shall be respected.
6. Children shall enjoy the care of appropriately trained staff, fully aware of the physical and emotional needs of each age group.
7. Children shall be able to wear their own clothes and have their own personal possessions.
8. Children shall be cared for with other children of the same age group.
9. Children shall be in an environment furnished and equipped to meet their requirements, and which conforms to recognised standards of safety and supervision.
10. Children shall have full opportunity for play, recreation and education suited to their age and condition.