Medical Care During COVID-19: Know Your Rights

Under federal law, you have certain rights if you have a disability. If you get sick or need to go to the hospital, these laws can protect you.

These are your rights:

1. Hospitals and doctors must help you just like they would anyone else.
2. The hospital cannot deny you emergency help (like a ventilator) just because of your disability.
3. You can bring a helper or family member with you to the hospital. But they cannot come with you if they are also sick.
4. You can ask for what you need for your disability.
5. You can bring your service animal with you.
6. You can bring what you need for your disability. You can bring your own wheelchair, ventilator or any other equipment.
7. Doctors and nurses must talk with you in a way that you understand:
   - You can get information in simple words if you do not understand.
   - You can get information in another language or have an interpreter.
   - You can have an ASL interpreter or CART.
   - You can get information in Braille, large print, or in a computer file.
   - You can have your communication system if you use AAC.

These are some of your legal rights when you are sick or in the hospital. If you need something to help with your disability, ask for it!

If you need more information, or have a problem with a doctor or a hospital during COVID-19, contact Disability Rights North Carolina (DRNC) at (919) 856-2195.