What is the *TakeCHARGE* Campaign? The TakeCHARGE Campaign is a patient safety initiative to educate and empower people of all ages to become knowledgeable and informed patients capable of advocating for themselves, their families and their friends. The TakeCHARGE Campaign begins with Patient Safety Awareness Week on March 8th and ends in September 2020.

Why Is Patient Empowerment Important? A report released in 2016 stated that 250,000 people die each year from preventable medical errors, making them the third leading cause of death in the United States. Doctor-patient relationships have dramatically changed in the age of medical specialization, managed care and electronic records. Patients' and families' involvement can dramatically reduce the risk of medical errors through better communication, understanding, advocacy and informed consent.

What Are the 5 Steps to Safer Health Care?

1. Understand & Complete Your Advance Directives
2. Keep a Record of Your Medical History & Current Medications
3. Prepare for Doctor Visits / Make A List of Questions
4. Prevent Infections / Ask Caregivers to Wash Their Hands
5. Use an Advocate / Be an Advocate for Others

Who Is This For? This campaign involves *everyone* receiving health care services. Medical errors can impact anyone. No one is immune. Yet some groups may be more vulnerable to medical errors due to economics, lack of insurance, ethnicity, age, cognitive impairment, emotional trauma, fear, ignorance, miscommunication or mistrust of the health care system. Patient Empowerment helps everyone who may use health care services now or in the future:

- Potential accident victims who need emergency care and transportation to an emergency room;
- Young adults who relocate or go off to college and need advance directives to authorize parents to access clinical information and make decisions in an emergency;
- Anyone under the care of a doctor, clinic or health program;
- People admitted to hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, rehab centers or hospices;
- People receiving home care, dialysis, outpatient surgery, diagnostic imaging, medications, or other medical services;
- Family members (and friends) of all of the above who care for or support persons receiving care.

How Can I Get Involved?   Visit the website at: www.takeCHARGE.care and see!

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The TakeCHARGE Campaign is an initiative of the Pulse Center for Patient Safety Education & Advocacy, a not-for-profit organization that is a leader in supporting patients and their families learning to be active members of their health care teams. To learn more about Pulse's work visit: www.pulsecenterforpatientsafety.org