



## The Caregiver Act

*Making a difference when you or a loved one enters the hospital*

Montanans are now hearing a new question when being admitted for a hospital stay:

***“Do you have a family caregiver?”***

That’s because a new law known as **the Caregiver Act** was passed by the Montana Legislature during the 2017 session. The law was designed to help caregivers stay informed when a family member or friend is in the hospital, and be better prepared to take care of their loved one at home following the hospital stay. The result should be fewer hospital re-admissions and greater opportunity for older parents, spouses and other loved ones to continue living independently at home.



### The Caregiver Act requires hospitals to do three things:

- Provide you the opportunity to designate a family caregiver
- Inform your caregiver when you are to be discharged to another facility or back home; and
- Provide the caregiver an explanation and demonstration of any medical tasks that will need to be performed at home, such as wound care or medication management.

Whether you currently serve as a caregiver for a family member or friend, or just want to be prepared in the event of your own hospital stay, you should be aware of your rights under **the Caregiver Act**.

Have a family discussion about who you would designate as your caregiver, and carry that person’s name and contact information with you. Keep in mind that your caregiver will not necessarily be the same person as your legal next of kin, especially if your family members don’t live in your community. ([www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org))

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