

Patient Advocacy - Giving Voice to Patients: Aniruddha Malpani (ed)

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Srikanta Basu

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“Patient advocacy – giving voice patients” is written by Dr Aniruddha Malpani who apart from being an IVF specialist, also runs the largest free patient education library (HELP).

Patient Advocate is a person who stands up for the patients, guides her through the health care maze and also helps her to claim her rights. Advocates can be self, family members and friends (mostly in our set up) or a professional advocate. This book broadly outlines the concept of patient advocacy, the role of advocates and how they can help patients. In our set up, where there is gross lack of communication between patient and the health system for any valid or invalid reasons; this book highlights the importance of patient advocates.

It is a multi-authored book with authors from varied background-medical, media and management fields to name a few. But the common thread is—they all are involved in patient care either directly or indirectly. The book is divided into seven

sections and apart from advocacy some of the topics covered are: medical negligence, mediating with third parties (insurance *etc.*), delivering bad news, and, caring of the bereaved. It also provides useful source of information for persons wanting take it as a career since it is an upcoming field.

The reader would have benefitted even more, had they included some information on the rights of the patients under Indian legal system, dealing with adolescents-assent, consent *etc.*, which are some of the grey areas even amongst medical professionals. Overall, it is a readable book, the language is simple, the font size legible with a good presentation and useful source of information for the patients, medical professionals or anyone concerned about the welfare of the patients. Moreover, the book can be viewed at <http://www.medexplain.in/>. The authors must be complemented for bringing out this kind of resource on such a uncommon but pertinent topic.