

Effective 4/9/2020 Amended July 23/2020:

New Visitation Policy

As a response to the current community situation with COVID-19, we are **suspending most in-person visits to our hospitalized patients**. The decision to suspend hospital visits was difficult and made only after careful consideration.

We encourage family members and friends to use alternative ways to interact with their loved ones, including phone calls, Face Time, Skype and other means.

We recognize there are times when having a visitor or family member present is crucial. Exemptions may be made for the following circumstances and must be approved by the house manager and/or administrator on call:

Non-Covid Patients who are at the end of life may have two visitors.

Covid Patients or suspected covid patients at the end of life (no withdrawal of care) are allowed **1** visitor each day, while maintaining droplet precautions. All patients in the critical care unit who are on ventilators also may be allowed to have 1 visitor each day as deemed appropriate by the Intensivist.

Covid Patients or suspected covid patients (withdrawal of care) may be moved to a private room and have 2-3 visitors for extubation and visitation, while using droplet precautions. (Please reference the Standard Process for Withdrawal of Life Support for COVID-19 Patients)

- **Patients undergoing surgery or procedures** may have one single-time visitor immediately after the procedure.
- Patients who are **minors** and those with limited decisional capacity may have a parent or guardian present.
- Patients who have **altered mental status** or developmental delays (where caregiver provides safety) may have one visitor.
- **Patients with disruptive behavior**, where a family member is key to their care, may have one visitor.
- **Obstetric** patients may have one support person accompany them.
- **Pediatrics** One visitor rule remains, however, in circumstances where the child or parent may need more support and is vital to the health or feeding of the child, a second visitor can be requested but approval must go through the house manager.
- **Neonates** and medically fragile children may have one parent per day who must remain in the room for the duration of the visit.
- Patients in the **Emergency Department** can have one person to accompany the patient.

Please note, visitors as listed above are subject to the following guidelines and screening before entering the hospital:

- Visitors will not be allowed if they have symptoms of respiratory infection (fever, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath).
- Visitors allowed must stay in the patient's room the entire time of the visit. Once the visitor leaves the patient room, they must leave the medical center. Visitors under the age of 16 will not be allowed except under extraordinary circumstances, and no animals other than service animals are permitted.

Our world is changing quickly due to the pandemic and we need to proactively respond to protect our employees, our community and our patients. Thank you all for your continued hard work and focus in caring for our patients.

Carole Peet