

**ADMINISTRATION  
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

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**SUBJECT: VISITATION, PATIENTS**

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**12/10/10**

**07/01/17**

**REVIEWED DATE: 01/01/23**

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**POLICY:**

It is the policy of the hospital to allow for visitors as chosen by the patient without discrimination in any manner (race, creed, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, gender, color, etc). In addition the patient has the right to exclude any person from visiting. Patients have the right to change their visitor preferences, both allowed and restricted) at any time during their hospital stay. This policy will be summarized in the Patient Handbook and may be posted. As required by the Federal Guidelines: Patients have the right to self-determine who may and may not visit during their hospital stay to include any of the following:

- a. Spouse
- b. Domestic Partner (including same-sex domestic partner)
- c. Family Member
- d. Children
- e. Friend
- f. Other visitors so designated by the patient

**PROCEDURE:**

1. The visitation policy will be reviewed at the time of admission. It is recognized that many Chronic Critically Ill Patients are not able to make decisions or communicate effectively at the time of admission. If this is the case, any issues related to visitation will be deferred to the primary decision maker.
2. Visitation is encouraged between the hours of 8am and 8pm, but allowances will be made for patients and visitors outside of these hours.
3. Visitor conduct is expected to be appropriate and non-disruptive. Any issues related to disruptive conduct (aggression, failure to comply with policies and procedures, etc) will be initially managed by the charge nurse or supervisor. If unresolved, the issue will be brought to the attention of the CEO or CNO.
4. Children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times. Visitation of children to patients in isolation is highly discouraged.
5. Visitors may not visit with signs of active, communicable illness (fever, cough, rhinorrhea, muscle aches and pains).

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6. Visitors must follow Infection Control Policies.
7. Visitors need to seek permission to bring food and beverages to the patient.
8. Visitors may not bring medication or drugs (licit or illicit) at any time, unless requested and approved by the physician.
9. Visitors may never take the patient off the unit, unless accompanied by staff.
10. Visitors must respect the privacy of all patients.
11. Visitors must seek and be granted permission to review the patient's medical record.
12. The hospital staff will support the patient's choice in visitation. Information will be shared according to HIPAA policies.
13. Any issues or disputes related to visitation will be managed within the Grievance Procedure.