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Owner Alicia Swanson

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Area Administration

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Applicability HCA Florida
North Florida
Hospital

Visitation Policy

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for visitation, which ensure patient choice of support person and visitors while not infringing on the rights and safety of other patients.

POLICY

1. Registered patients will be asked to identify a support person who may be present during the course of their stay and involved in their care. Each patient (or support person where appropriate) shall be informed of his or her visitation rights, including any clinical restriction or limitation of their visitation rights
2. When a patient is incapacitated or otherwise unable to communicate his or her wishes, the support person/patient representative shall be informed of the patient's visitation rights. In the event the support person and patient representative is not the same individual and they disagree on who should be allowed to visit the patient, the decision will be deferred to the patient representative
3. Patients will have the right to designate which visitors they will receive, withdraw, or deny during their hospital stay or outpatient visit.
4. In order to support a quiet, restful environment, visitors will be encouraged to visit during the hours of 7:00am to 9:00pm. Specialty units may have some restrictions on visitation during times of emergencies or shift report.
5. The Department Director/designee, Charge Nurse and the House Supervisor may limit visitors for any patient due to interference in the care process or if the visitor infringes on the rights or safety of other patients.
6. Clergy will be extended the courtesy of visiting patients at their convenience, providing the patient agrees to the visit and it does not interfere with any patient care process
7. Visitors may be allowed to stay with the patient all night. Circumstances which may warrant such action may include the following:

- A. Patient is confused/disoriented with or without restraints
- B. Family concern or emotional support
- C. Patient is an infant, child or adolescent
- D. Communication barrier
- E. Father/significant other in Postpartum
- F. Patient needs emotional support and comfort to alleviate fear of hospitalization

Visitors are permitted to stay overnight in semi-private rooms provided there is no interference with the rights or safety of the roommate.

- 8. All staff should be aware of visitors in unauthorized areas, and report this to their supervisor or Security immediately. Security will assist with removing unauthorized persons from the building.
- 9. Infection Control

Persons with symptoms of illness (URI, Cold, Bronchitis, etc.) may be requested to:

- i. Refrain from visiting a patient due to risk of spreading the illness, or
- ii. Wear a mask while visiting the patient.

Infection Control is available to assist with any questions regarding the appropriateness of visitation including the evaluation of persons with suspect/known exposure in preceding weeks to a communicable airborne disease.

These guidelines may be amended or changed at any time to ensure the protection of the patient.

- 10. Visitation will not be restricted, limited or denied on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation or disability. All visitors will enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with any clinically necessary or other reasonable restriction or limitation that facility may need to place on such rights.

All Revision Dates

3/1/2022,8/30/2019, 8/1/2014, 7/1/2013,3/1/2011,6/1/2010,11/1/2007,10/1/2002,10/1/2001,1/1/1998

Approval Signatures

Step Description

Approver

Date

Board of Trustees	Deanna Beverly: VP Quality & Patient Safety [AP]	3/1/2022
Medical Executive Committee	Deanna Beverly: VP Quality & Patient Safety [AP]	3/1/2022
Quality Council	Deanna Beverly: VP Quality & Patient Safety [AP]	2/9/2022
Nursing Executive Council	Alicia Swanson: Interim CNO	2/9/2022
P&P Committee	Deanna Beverly: VP Quality & Patient Safety [AP]	1/14/2022
Policy Owner	Alicia Swanson: Interim CNO	1/12/2022