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Original Date	3/22/2007
Revised Date	12/5/2023

ORIGINATOR: Infection Control Department

SUBJECT: Regulations for Hospital Visitors (Guidelines for Ingection Control)

POLICY: Because visitors may be source of infection, suitable regulations pertaining to visitors are imperative in the control of nosocomial infection. To visit a patient is a right afforded to all patients but may be restricted or temporarily suspended to control the spread of communicable disease, infection or viruses. Visitors often have therapeutic value and hence should be subject to the control of the attending physician.

INTERPRETATION:

I. Nursing / Patient Care Areas

• **Medical/Surgical, Swing Bed and Observation Unit admitted patients:**

1. Limit of (3) visitors at a time, per patient.
2. No age limit on visitors.
3. Visitors with respiratory disease or any sign of communicable infection are not permitted to visit hospital patients.
4. Patients in quarantine or isolation may have visitation restricted, limited or suspended as deemed appropriate by the attending physician.
5. Visiting hours shall be allowed from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

• **Recovery**

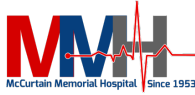
Visitors are not permitted in the Recovery Room unless special permission has been granted by the attending physician.

• **Obstetrics**

1. Limit of (3) visitors at a time, per patient.
2. No age limit on visitors.
3. Visitors with respiratory disease or any sign of communicable infection are not permitted to visit hospital patients.
4. Patients in quarantine or isolation may have visitation restricted, limited or suspended as deemed appropriate by the attending physician.
5. Visiting hours shall be allowed from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

• **Emergency Department**

Visitation for the Emergency Department is controlled by Policy No. 26-71.



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## II. Person's to be Excluded

Persons with respiratory disease or any sign of communicable infection are not permitted to visit hospital patients. Visitors may not interfere with the activities of the professional staff. Quiet and peaceful decorum should be observed at all times while visiting patients. Visitors are prohibited from smoking within the hospital or on hospital grounds. Visitors should not bring food or other items to patients without the knowledge and consent of the patient's nurse or attending physician. All children must be accompanied by an adult at all times and may not be left alone or unattended. Person's deemed to have violated hospital policy may be asked to leave and restricted from returning.

## III. Area's to be Excluded

Operating Room – all non-professional visitors and employees will be restricted from these areas/rooms.

Isolation areas / rooms

Isolation units / wings / corridors

Behavioral Health settings

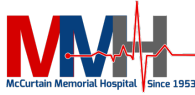
Other typically restricted areas or to remain present during the administration of emergency care in critical situations unless authorized by the attending physician

## IV. Announcement

Visiting hours shall be seven (7) days a week from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Registration personnel or the operator shall announce over the public announcement system each evening at 9:00 P.M. that visitation has ended, and that visitation will resume the next day at the designated time. All visitors shall leave the hospital upon the conclusion of visitation each day.

## V. Special Precautions, PPE

The hospital may require that visitors wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) prior to and during visitation. Refusal by a visitor to comply with PPE requirements shall be grounds to deny visitation.



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VI. Hospital Denial, Suspension, or Restriction of Visitation

The hospital may to deny, suspend, or restrict visitation for any patient or visitor in accordance with enforcement of this policy or refusal by a patient or visitor to comply with this policy provided that the patient and/or visitor is aware of the policy and is offered an opportunity to comply.

Under special circumstances, the hospital reserves the right to decrease the number of visitors allowed per patient / per day. Visitors may not be permitted to roam freely about the hospital and should stay in permitted areas only.

VII. Procedures to Deny, Suspend, or Restrict Visitation

The decision to deny, suspend, or restrict a patients right to visitation, or a visitors access to visitation, shall a) be thoroughly documented in the patient chart; b) an incident report shall be completed in each instance; and c) the hospital President and Chief Executive Officer, or his/her designee, shall approve the denial, suspension, or restriction prior to the patient or visitor being notified of same.

VIII. Posting of the Policy

This policy shall be posted in all nursing units of the hospital.