



Title:	Visitors Policy - Florida				
Chapter:	Administration				
Policy Number:	RH-AD-119A				
Division:	Inpatient Rehabilitation				
Approver(s):	SVP, Clinical Operations; CEO; Governing Board				
Origination Date:	12/08/09	Revised Date:	1/1/21, 5/05/22	Review Date:	1/1/21

SCOPE

This document applies to the Florida Rehabilitation Hospitals within the Select Medical Inpatient Rehabilitation Division.

DEFINITIONS

None.

POLICY

To facilitate the rehabilitation process by allowing patients uninterrupted time in therapeutic activities while also promoting patient/family relationships and patient/visitor safety. This policy provides clarification that the hospital and their staff respect the rights of each patient to determine who may visit during their stay in the hospital. Visitors will not be subject to discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the responsible hospital leader with authority and responsibility for the management and operation of the hospital as established by the Governing Board. The CEO will ensure staff adhere to all policies and procedures.

PROCEDURE

1. At the time of admission, each patient, and patient's family and/or representative will be informed of their rights to visitors within the following framework:
 - a. Patients have a right to visitors during their hospital stay.
 - b. Patients will be informed if, for any clinically necessary reason, visitors may be restricted, except as set forth in section 7, and the reasons for that restriction.
 - c. Patients have the right to self-determine who may and may not visit during their hospital stay to include any of the following: Spouse, domestic partner, family member, friend and any other visitors so designated by the patient.
 - d. Patients have the right to change the visitor list at any time during their stay.
 - e. Patients have the right to designate an essential caregiver. The essential caregiver may be any person designated by the patient. Visitation by the essential caregiver will be allowed for at least 2 hours daily, in addition to the standard visitation hours set forth below. Essential caregivers are not required to provide care to a patient, nor will the hospital compel an essential caregiver to provide care.

2. The hospital has the responsibility to assure that visitors are not restricted based on race, gender, religion, sex, national origin, color, sexual orientation, or disability
3. The hospital has the responsibility to respect and enforce the patient's preferences related to visitors as long as they do not present any clinical risk to the patient or to the visitor.
4. Visitors are asked to visit during posted visiting hours only.
 - a. Visitation hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - b. Patients may only receive: No restrictions on visitor(s) at a time.
 - c. Unlimited visitors are permitted per day.
 - d. Visitors must be 18 or older.
5. Visitors may visit during hours outside of the established visiting hours if those times do not conflict with therapies or compromise the patient's plan of care.
6. Notwithstanding any other provision in this policy, in person visitation will be permitted in all of the following circumstance unless the patient objects:
 - a. End of life situations;
 - b. If a patient was living with family before being admitted to the hospital's care and is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support;
 - c. The patient is making one or more major medical decisions;
 - d. The patient is experiencing emotional distress grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died;
 - e. The patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver; and
 - f. A patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
7. Consensual physical contact between a patient and the visitor is allowed.
8. Visitors must consult with nursing staff prior to bringing food or electrical appliances to patients.
9. Visitors must obtain permission from the nursing department before taking the patient off the nursing unit.
10. Visitors who are sick and/or have the flu or flu-like symptoms (fever, coughing, rhinorrhea) may not visit.
 - a. Visitors will self-screen for signs and symptoms of communicable illness.
 - b. The self-screen will be attested to in the Visitor Log.
 - c. Visitors are not required to provide proof of immunization and/or vaccination.
11. Visitors shall adhere to all hospital infection control policies and procedure including those pertaining to personal protective equipment. Visitors will receive education on infection control practices as per policy IC 7-4.
13. Additional relevant information for patients and families is also available in the Patient Handbook and will be posted on the hospital website.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Infection Control Policy IC 7-4

REFERENCES

Florida Senate Bill 988 – “No Patient Left Alone Act”