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Approved N/A
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Owner Michelle Cruz
Area Housewide
Applicability HCA Florida Lake City Hospital
Type Of Policy
Document

Visitation Policy, 900.070

OBJECTIVE:

To set guidelines for visitors within the facility, assuring all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient preferences and within limitations outlined in this policy regarding visitation.

POLICY:

1. Patients have the right to choose who may and may not visit with them whether a spouse, a domestic partner (including a same-sex domestic partner), another family member, or a friend. Patients have the right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time.
2. Patients have the right to have his or her own physician notified promptly of admission to the hospital.
3. No restriction, limitations or other denial of visitation privileges will be based on age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identification, sexual orientation or disability.
4. Children are permitted to visit a patient and should be accompanied by an adult.
5. Patients will be informed of their visitation rights, including clinical restrictions and or limitations on these rights as outlined in this policy.
6. Patients less than 18 years of age should have someone remain with them throughout their ED visit except where Florida statutes supersede.
7. The hospital may restrict visitation when clinically necessary. It will be enforced uniformly and restrictions will be clearly communicated along with their medical basis, to would-be visitors and/or the patient.
8. Reasons for restricting or limiting visitors are:
 - a. Any court order limiting or restraining contact

- b. Behavior presenting a direct risk or threat to the patient, hospital staff or other in the immediate environment
 - c. Behavior disruptive of the functioning of the patient care unit
 - d. Reasonable limitations on the number of visitors at any one time
 - e. Patient's risk of infection by the visitor
 - f. Visitor's risk of infection by the patient
 - g. Extraordinary protections because of a pandemic or infectious disease outbreak
 - h. Substance abuse treatment protocols requiring restricted visitation
 - i. Patient's need for privacy or rest
 - j. Need for privacy or rest by another individual in the patient's shared room.
 - k. Patient undergoing care interventions
9. Visitors who are waiting in the waiting room will be kept informed of patient status by Emergency Department or hospital personnel.
10. All staff should be aware of visitors in unauthorized areas and report this to their supervisor or Security immediately.
11. Infection Control:
- a. There is significant risk of complications from cold or flu-type illness to the immunocompromised patient:
 - 1. Persons with symptoms of illness, i.e., upper respiratory infections, colds, bronchitis, etc. may be requested to refrain from visiting a patient due to risk of spreading the illness or wear a mask while visiting the patient
 - 2. Persons with known exposure in preceding weeks to a communicable airborne disease will be requested to refrain from hospital visitations. This includes, but is not limited to, chickenpox, measles, rubella and mumps. This only applies to patients who have no previous history of disease or vaccination to specific communicable disease
 - b. Infection Control is available to assist with any questions regarding the appropriateness of visitation.
 - c. These guidelines may be amended or changed at any time to ensure the protection of the patient.
12. Special Provisions under Pandemic COVID-19
- a. Visitor escalation for COVID-19 is determined by level of risk. The facility will adhere to CDC and HCA guidelines in determine levels of visitation.
13. No Patient Left Alone Act
- a. A patient may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver.
 - b. The facility will allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider.

- c. The facility visitation policies and procedures, will allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the patient objects:
1. End-of-life situations.
 2. A patient who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
 3. The patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
 4. A patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 5. A patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
 6. A patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
 7. For hospitals, childbirth, including labor and delivery.
 8. Pediatric patients.
 9. The policies and procedures may require a visitor to agree in writing, to follow the facility's policies and procedures. A facility may suspend in person visitation of a specific visitor, if the visitor violates the facility's policies and procedures.

Reference: CMS Condition of Participation 482.13(h); The Joint Commission Hospital Accreditation Program (HAP) 2020; SB 988 <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/988/BillText/er/HTML>

All Revision Dates

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Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
MEC	Teresa Tompkins: Manager, Physician Services	Pending
HQC	Michelle Cruz: Dir of Quality	8/1/2022
P&P Committee	Mary Thompson: Quality/Risk Coordinator, Site Admin	6/24/2022
Policy Owner	Michelle Cruz: Dir of Quality	5/25/2022