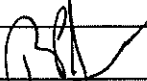


SUBJECT: PATIENT VISITATION MANAGEMENT	POLICY#: 352.2808 - PATIENT VISITATION MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT: Infection Control	PAGE: 1 OF: 3
APPROVED BY: CEO 	EFFECTIVE: 10/16/2012 REVISED: 06/07/2024

**POLICY:**

The patient has the right to free and private communication with persons of his or her choice at Doctors Memorial Hospital or in the community. Adequate privacy will be provided for the patient visitations in their rooms or the lobby. All patient rooms at Doctors Memorial Hospital are private.

**VISITATION RULES:**

- Visiting hours are from 09:00 am to 9:00 pm, at the end of visiting hours all doors at Doctors Memorial Hospital will be locked except the Emergency Room Door.
- Visitors may stay as long as they wish during these hours as long as the patient agrees, and it does not interfere with the care of the patient.
- Visitation policies are defined and set forth by hospital administration with input from clinicians and the Infection Preventionist. These policies are then delegated to clinical workers and charge nurses to ensure compliance.
- Charge Nurses and clinical staff are responsible for educating visitors regarding infection control polices and precautions as defined by the hospital Infection Control Risk Assessment and Job Specific Training provided to each unit by the Infection Preventionist.
- On the Medical Surgical unit there is no set number for visitors, but visitors should not take up so much space in a room that nursing staff cannot perform their duties.
- PACU maximum number of visitors is 2.
- Emergency Department maximum number of visitors is 2. Pediatric patients are allowed both parents and 1 visitor at any given time.
- ICU maximum number of visitors is 2.
- Visitors are only allowed in Physical Therapy and Radiology if they are required to assist in the care of the patient.
- DMH does not have a Pediatric or Labor and Delivery unit.
- In accordance with SB 988 no visitor will be denied access to a family member or loved one due to vaccination status. However, visitors should be in good health, without a transmissible illness. Visitors who have tested positive for covid should follow CDC guidelines for isolation before visiting patients. Mask and PPE will be

provided to family members if needed. Masks are available at the front desk / lobby where visitors may obtain on entry to the hospital.

- No visitors will be compelled to show proof of vaccination status prior to visiting a patient in the facility.
- If a visitor insists on seeing a patient despite being in poor health DMH will use source control measures. The visitor should check in at the nurse's station before visiting the patient's room. Nursing staff should encourage the visitor to wear a mask to control respiratory secretions and to wash their hands when they enter the room. Contact with the patient should be limited if the visitor is ill.
- Consensual contact is permitted between patients and visitors. If the patient is on isolation precautions it is the responsibility of the charge nurse / nursing staff to educate the visitors and patient regarding the risks of transmission and the consequences of contracting the illness.
- The charge nurse will be responsible for screening visitors, ensuring they use the appropriate level of precautions before entering the patient's room. Upon entry visitors should be encouraged to wash their hands and to also wash their hands when exiting the room. The charge nurse will educate the visitors regarding the risks to themselves and others, if they do not comply with infection control precautions.
- Visitors should come to the hospital during normal visiting hours. The length of the visit should be determined by all parties, the patient, the visitor, and the clinical staff. Visitors should understand that the care of the patient comes first, and they may be removed from the visiting area for diagnostic testing or necessity. Overnight stays should be addressed by management and the nursing staff before allowing a visitor to stay beyond normal visiting hours.
- On the Medical Surgical unit there is no set number for visitors, but visitors should not take up so much space in a room that nursing staff cannot perform their duties.
- Family members or significant others may have immediate access upon making a request to the charge nurse.
- Children under the age of twelve (12) years of age are not allowed in the patient rooms unless accompanied by their guardian/parent.
- The patient has a right to choose his/her visitors. Doctors Memorial Hospital staff doesn't interfere with the consensual physical contact between a patient of DMH and a visitor.
- In our ICU unit there is a limit of two (2) visitors at a time. In most cases there is no strict visitation time unless there is a critical patient in the unit. In this case visitation times may be limited. Visitors are to check in at the ICU Nurses Station.
- Visitors are permitted in the Emergency Department. To Monitor traffic and maintain a safe environment in the Emergency room, no more than two (2) visitors per patient at any given time. Pediatric patients are allowed both parents and one (1) visitor at any given time. If any signs or symptoms of communicable disease/infection are noted with the visitor, the visitor may be asked to wear a mask.

- Visitors are permitted in the PACU area. No more than (2) visitors are permitted to see the PACU patient at a time. The visitors entering the PACU area shall be instructed by the PACU nurse on hand washing and Proper attire. If any signs or symptoms of communicable disease/infection are noted with the visitor, the visitor may be asked to wear a mask.
  - No visitors will be permitted in the OR except when the patient's condition is critical or upon request of the Surgeon. No more than two (2) people will be allowed to see the patient at a time. All visitors Must wear proper surgical attire.

The charge nurse will be responsible for monitoring visitors. Visitors should report to the nursing station prior to entering the patient's room.

- In accordance with SB 988, DMH will not require any person / persons to submit proof of vaccination prior visiting a family member or loved one.

**REFERENCE:** Visitation: Florida Agency for Health Care Administration  
(myflorida.com)