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Area Administrative-General

Visitation, 00001 01 17

I. Policy

Licking Memorial Health Systems (LMHS) recognizes the important supportive role that friends and family play in patient care. To accommodate the needs of our patients, the hospital offers open visitation.

II. Procedure

A. Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Visitation Guidelines

1. Patients have the right to consent to and receive visitors of their choosing, including, but not limited to:
 - Spouse
 - Domestic partners (including a same-sex domestic partner)
 - Other family members
 - Friends
2. Patients (or their legal representative) have the right to withdraw consent for any visitors at any time.
3. The hospital may not restrict, limit, or otherwise deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. The hospital must ensure that all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient preferences.
4. Healthcare providers may implement any clinically necessary restrictions or limitations on

patient visitation that are reasonable for the patient's clinical condition or for the patient's recovery. Restrictions imposed by healthcare providers regarding patient visitation should be used on a limited basis and should involve the patient (or their legal representative) whenever possible.

5. A visitor may stay with a patient and may visit the patient at any time. A visitor is welcome to spend the night with the patient. Visitors are not permitted to sleep/occupy the same bed as the patient, but they will be provided with their own bed or recliner in the patient room.
6. Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., visitors should enter through the hospital's main entrance.
7. After hours, visitors should enter through the Emergency Department entrance.
8. An adult should accompany children under the age of 12 who visit the hospital.
9. Children age 12 or older are permitted to visit in the special care nursery.
10. For infection control reasons, visitors should not sit or lie on a patient's bed.
11. Cellular phones may be used in the hospital.
12. If a patient is in isolation, we ask that visitation be kept to two visitors at a time and that visitors follow isolation guidelines by wearing personal protective equipment, which includes gloves, gowns or masks to protect them and the hospital environment from infection transmission. Visitors should also wash hands before and after visitation. If a visitor fails to take these necessary precautions, LMHS may restrict visitation to maintain patient safety.
13. Visiting should be avoided if a visitor is experiencing any signs or symptoms of illness.
14. For potential health reasons, live plants and flowers are not permitted in critical care. Visitors are welcome to bring cards, balloons and silk flowers.
15. In order to maintain a healthy atmosphere, LMHS maintains a smoke-free campus. Visitors are expected to follow the [Tobacco-Free Campus policy](#). Smoking or the use of other tobacco products is prohibited anywhere on hospital or LMHS properties.
16. Visitors may not possess and/or use illegal drugs. LMHS supports and maintains a drug-free environment for the health and safety of the healthcare team, patients and visitors. Use of illegal or street drugs, including marijuana (even if legally obtained for recreational or medical purposes), is prohibited anywhere on hospital or LMHS properties. Any illegal substances brought onto hospital and/or other LMHS property will be turned over to security and referred to law enforcement.
17. Visitors who wish to bring pets must follow the [Service Animals/Animal Assistants, Therapy Animals, and Pet Visitation](#) policy.
18. All persons entering LMHS facilities must wear proper clothing, including shoes and shirts. Offensive attire or indecent exposure is prohibited. Persons not properly attired will be requested to leave, either by LMHS personnel or by LMHS Police, and may return when properly dressed. This policy is established for the well-being of our patients and the visiting public.
19. The right of a patient to have visitors may be limited or restricted when visitation interferes with the care of the patient and/or the care of other patients. Examples of when visitation may be restricted or limited include, but are not limited to, when:

1. there may be infection control issues;
 2. visitation may interfere with the care of other patients;
 3. the hospital is aware that there is an existing court order restricting contact;
 4. visitors engage in disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior of any kind;
 5. the patient or patient's roommate(s) need rest or privacy;
 6. the patient is undergoing care interventions.
20. Visitors are expected to follow all LMHS policies, including those addressing violent behavior. See [Workplace Violence](#). LMHS prohibits violent behavior from visitors, and will take appropriate action permitted under law to protect other patients, staff, and visitors from the violent behavior, including restricting visitation to LMHS.

III. References

C.F.R. Section 482.13 (h) Patient Visitation Rights

Maternity visitors should refer to the [Visitation on Maternity Unit Policy](#) for more specific guidelines.

Behavioral Health patients at Shepherd Hill should refer to [Behavioral Health Visitation Policy](#) for more specific guidelines.

Outpatient Surgery visitors should refer to [Visitation in the Outpatient Surgery Department Policy](#) for more specific guidelines.

NOTE: During times of high-risk or other circumstances, these rules may be modified with the approval of Executive Administration.

All Revision Dates

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Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
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