

Title: Patient Visitation Policy	Document Reference Number: 731
Site(s): Jupiter Health, Inc., Jupiter Medical Center, Inc.	Type: Organization-wide
Owner: Elizabeth Deluca (Director of Risk Management)	Department(s): Risk Management
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Policy Statement

It is the policy of Jupiter Medical Center (“JMC”) to allow patients to have visitation without restriction based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, culture/cultural values, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity/expression and to comply with the Florida Senate Bill No Patient Left Alone Act requirements.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define and establish reasonable, flexible, and safe guidelines regarding persons visiting hospitalized patients and to outline when reasonable restrictions or limitations may be initiated.

Scope

Organization-wide

Definitions

NONE

Policy

1. JMC recognizes that visitors can be integral to the physical comfort and emotional well-being of patients. The organization further recognizes the support our patients may require during their stay may come from visitors. Vaccination status is not required as a condition of visitation.

2. Adult patients and parents/guardians for patients who are minors have a right (subject to his or her consent, which can be withdrawn at any time) to receive the visitors whom he or she designates, including but not limited to a spouse, a domestic partner (including a same-sex domestic partner), a family member or friend.

3. The hospital must allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the patient objects:
 - 3.1. End-of-life situations;
 - 3.2. A resident, client, or 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;
 - 3.3. A resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions;
 - 3.4. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died;
 - 3.5. A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver;
 - 3.6. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking;
 - 3.7. For hospitals, childbirth, including labor and delivery;
 - 3.8. Pediatric patients.

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4. A patient has the option to designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. This individual must be allowed in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for a least two (2) hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the hospital.
5. Organizational departments, units and specific patient areas may establish additional visitation procedures and hours for their respective disciplines. All visitors should check with the patient's nurse for additional standards or restrictions.
6. The hospital shall post the visitation policy on the hospital home page website. Visitation hours are subject to change based on public health concerns, natural disasters, or local security concerns.
7. Visitation General Rules and Guidelines
 - 7.1. All visitors are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and courteous manner;
 - 7.2. Visitors must comply with screening and security needs upon entry, to include producing proper government issued identification and wearing provided visitor identification (badge/sticker);
 - 7.3. JMC supports reasonable religious rituals and cultural needs of patients and clergy of all denominations. Chaplain services will be made available as needed or requested;
 - 7.4. All visitors will follow visitation guidelines in order to promote the safety and confidentiality of our patients;
 - 7.5. Visitors shall refrain from loud conversations or from any behavior that may be disruptive to a patient, other visitors and Team Members;
 - 7.6. Any visitor under the age of 17 should be accompanied by and remain with an adult other than the patient;
 - 7.7. The consumption of alcoholic beverages and smoking is prohibited on the facilities, grounds and in any organizational vehicle;
 - 7.8. Running, littering or loitering in the hallways is prohibited;
 - 7.9. Overnight visitation may be allowed at the discretion of the unit charge nurse and based on patient need and/or request;
 - 7.10. JMC Team Members shall provide clear explanations concerning what family and visitors may do to help the patient, where they can be within the nursing unit, and any limitations on their participation;
 - 7.11. Because visiting hours or the number of visitors may be restricted in specific areas, visitors are encouraged to inquire about area specific visitation standards.
8. Visitation Restrictions
 - 8.1. All visitors should be free from recent exposure to communicable diseases and without fever or visible signs of illness; appropriate screening of visitors will be conducted as needed;
 - 8.2. Visitors exhibiting signs and symptoms such as fever, cough, undiagnosed rash, or nasal discharge, will be strongly encouraged to leave the hospital and postpone their visit until they are healthy;
 - 8.3. Visitors will be required as needed to wear and follow protective measures, such as properly wearing a face covering, performing hand hygiene, and maintaining any prescribed social distancing;
 - 8.4. JMC reserves the right to limit or restrict visits when it deems necessary in order to protect the health and safety of patients, visitors, or Team Members;
 - 8.5. The organization may enforce visitation restrictions during times of infectious outbreak in the community (e.g., influenza, measles, mumps, chicken pox, etc.) and or due to other public health concerns or other emergencies;

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- 8.6. Visitor restrictions may also be implemented that effect the number of visitors allowed per patient, the times/hours of visitation, and restriction of movement of visitors throughout the physical environment;
- 8.7. Restricted visitation may be needed when providing intimate personal care to patients or for other clinical reasons;
- 8.8. Visitors may be asked to leave the unit during rounds, procedures, or emergencies;
- 8.9. Visitors unable or unwilling to comply with lawful and reasonable visitation restrictions and expectations will be removed from the premises, with future visitation possibly restricted or prohibited.

Related Documents

[Patient Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#)

References

- 1) CFR 482.13 Condition of Participation: Patient Visitation Rights:
https://www.govregs.com/regulations/expand/title42_chapterIV_part482_subpartB_section482.13#title42_chapterIV_part482_subpartB_section482.13
- 2) CS/CS/SB 988 — In-person Visitation -
<https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/BillSummaries/2022/html/2730>

Approved by: Steven Seeley (VP Chief Operating Officer)

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