

	Policy Number: PTR2010
	Policy Approval: 7/10/2017
	Revision Date(s): May 5, 2022
	Last Review Date: May 5, 2022

VISITATION

Patient Rights and Ethics

POLICY:

In order to protect patients’ confidentiality and safety, visitation for patients will be handled according to facility procedures. Visitors above 18 years of age may visit with the patient in the cafeteria unless there is a clinical reason to limit visitation. Visitors under the age of 18 are not permitted in the common visitation area and may only be received when the request is made *24 hours* in advance with approval by the treatment team.

The Facility may impose clinically appropriate limitations on patient visitation when visitation would interfere with the care of the patient. In the event an accommodation is needed, please notify the clinical team to discuss a special visitation.

The Vines Hospital reserves the right to ask any visitor to leave for any reason. Those who refuse to cooperate may be escorted off the property by Law Enforcement and may be restricted from any further visits.

PROCEDURE:

WHO:

DOES WHAT:

Admission Staff /
Clinical Staff

1. Ensures family members and others are identified on patient contact form at the time of admission and ongoing during treatment. Nursing and/or clinical staff will verify if visitors are permitted for visitation through verification on the contact form.

Receptionist

2. Will verify I.D. of the visitor and ensure visitor signs in, including patient initials only.
 - a. All visitors will be required to wear a badge.
 - b. Visitors must be wanded for security issues.
 - c. Visitors must leave all valuables at home or in their vehicles such as purses, cigarettes, lighters etc.
 - d. Cell phones, purses or bags of any kind are not permitted in the visitation area.
3. Checks with charge nurse/therapist via phone to ensure the visitor is an approved visitor for the patient.

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| | 4. | Ensure the visitor does not bring in food items into visitation. This includes both homemade foods and store-bought items. All food must be provided by TVH Dietary Department. |
| Nursing Staff | 5. | Checks patient contact form to verify if visitor is approved for visitation. Ensures staff to patient ratio is maintained at 1:6 for adults during visitation. |
| Physician | 6. | Writes order for restrictions on visitations in circumstances whereby such visits may be a detriment to patient's welfare. |
| Nursing Staff/MHT | 7. | Ensures visitation rules are followed throughout visitation period. Ensures proper seating arrangements for visitors and patients are adhered to. Ensures staff are positioned with adequate lines of sight for both visitors and patients. Ensures staff are vigilant to be alert and are addressing concerns with supervisors immediately through use of radio for assistance. |
| Client/patient | 6. | Adhere to visitation rules throughout visitation period. No access to cell phone, food from outside the facility, inappropriate touching, etc. or visit will end. |

Revised: 5/22, 07/17, 08/05, 03/09

Function: Patient Rights and Ethics

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SPECIAL HOSPITAL POST COVID-19 VISITATION ADDENDUM

I. Purpose

To ensure that all special visitation provisions in Florida for all F.S. 395 facilities are observed and complied with.

II. Definitions

None

III. Policy

It is the policy of The Vines Hospital to ensure the rights of all patients receiving care and services.

Infection Control Policy covers infection control and education policies for visitors; screening, personal protective equipment, and other infection control protocols for visitors.

This policy ensures permissible length of visits and numbers of visitors, which must meet or exceed the standards in ss. 400.022(1)(b).

Our organization ensures designation of a person responsible for ensuring that staff adhere to the policies and procedures.

Safety-related policies and procedures may not be more stringent than those established for the provider’s staff and may not require visitors to submit proof of any vaccination or immunization.

The policies and procedures allow consensual physical contact between a resident, client, or patient and the visitor where safe and clinically appropriate.

Within 24 hours after establishing the policies and procedures required under this section, providers must make such policies and procedures easily accessible from the homepage of their websites

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IV. Procedure

With a physician order and where applicable, the above and following will always be observed:

Essential caregiver: A resident, client, or patient may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. The provider must allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider. This section does not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident, client, or patient of a provider, and providers may not require an essential caregiver to provide such care.

- The Intake Specialist shall inform the patient/support person/legal representative of the patient’s visitation right.
- The patient/support person/legal representative shall acknowledge understanding of the visitation by signing the Patient’s Acknowledgement form.
- In the event the patient is unable to sign the acknowledgement and there is not legal representative/support person present, the Intake Specialist shall notify the admitting nurse.
- Once the patient is determined to be in an improved state or the legal representative/support person is available, the unit nurse shall explain the patient visitation right and obtain a signature as evidence of understanding.
- The Intake Specialist shall document the identity of a Support Person/legal representative selected by a patient shall be recorded on the intake assessment form.
- The policies and procedures may require a visitor to agree in writing to follow the provider’s policies and procedures. A provider may suspend in-person visitation of a specific visitor if the visitor violates the provider’s policies and procedures.

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These standards apply by law in the following circumstances in Hospitals:

1. End-of-life situations.
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. The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
4. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
5. A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
6. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
7. For hospitals, childbirth, including labor and delivery.
8. Pediatric patients.

V. Documentation

Patient's Acknowledgement form

VI. References

408.823, F.S