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Visitation

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of The Vines Hospital to ensure the rights of all patients/residents receiving care and services. This includes the opportunity for all patients to have visitation with family, friends and significant others.

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

PURPOSE

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

DEFINITIONS

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. 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.

SCOPE

All employees of The Vines Hospital, visitors, and patients

PROCEDURE

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

- I. Informing Patients/Residents:

1. The Intake Specialist shall inform all patients/residents/support person/legal representative of the patient's visitation right, before care is furnished to the patient and any clinically necessary or reasonable restriction or limitation that The Vines Hospital may place on such rights, and the reason for such restriction or limitation.
2. The patient/resident/support person/legal representative shall acknowledge understanding of the visitation by signing the Patient's Acknowledgement form.
3. In the event the patient/resident is unable to sign the acknowledgement and there is not a legal representative/support person present, the Intake Specialist shall notify the admitting nurse.
4. 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/resident visitation right.
5. The Intake Specialist shall document the identity of a Support Person/legal representative selected by a patient/resident and that shall be recorded on the intake assessment form.
6. 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.

2. Patient Visitation Rights:

1. All patients/residents shall have the right, subject to their consent, to receive visitors whom they designate. The patient shall have the right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time.
2. Patient/resident visitation rights shall not be restricted, limited, or otherwise denied based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

3. Restrictions on Patient/Resident Visitation:

1. The facility may impose clinically appropriate limitations on patient visitation when visitation would interfere with the care of the patient/resident.

4. Support Person(s)/Emergency Contact:

1. All patients/residents shall be given an opportunity to identify a support person/emergency contact, who may be a family member, friend, or other individual who supports the patient during his or her hospital stay and may exercise the patient's visitation rights in the event the patient is incapacitated or otherwise unable to do so. A support person/emergency contact person may be identified by the patient/resident verbally or in writing.
2. The identity of a support person/emergency contact person selected by a patient/resident shall be recorded in the patient's medical record.

5. Designated hours on specific days will be set apart from each program schedule for the purpose of visitation. These times meet or exceed the standards in ss. 400.022(1)(b).

1. Visitors will be required to check in with the front desk 15 minutes prior to the start of visitation.

2. Each programs visiting hours are posted on the unit, in Admissions and in the lobby.
 3. Visitation will occur on the following days/times; Adults: Sunday/Thursday: 7:30pm-8:30pm, Adolescents: Wednesday/Saturday 7:30pm-8:30pm.
 4. 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.
 5. Special visiting hours may be arranged with Social Services and Nursing Administration for family members that cannot meet with the patient during the established visitation hours.
 6. It is recognized that special circumstances dictate the need for flexibility and adjustment to regularly scheduled times.
6. To ensure the safety and/or confidentiality of patients and all staff, all visitors are required to wear an ID badge and sign a confidentiality statement in the front lobby before entering the hospital itself. In addition, the visitor will sign-in and out when leaving the facility, as well as giving back their visitor badge.
 7. The switchboard will request the patient's privacy code from each visitor requesting to visit with a patient/resident and that program will verify that the patient wishes to visit.
 8. Nobody under the age of 18 is allowed to visit with the patients/residents. Special arrangements for children can be made in advance by communicating with Social Services and Nursing Administration. Any children will require adult supervision during the visitation.
 9. Patients/residents may only receive 2 visitors at a time.
 10. Patients/residents have the right to visit or contact clergy, attorneys, law enforcement or Command, outside of designated visitation times.
 1. The attorney and the patient/resident will be placed in a private room for the visit to occur.
 11. Visitors may be asked to leave during visitation for security reasons.
 12. Shoes, shirts, and appropriate clothing will be worn at all times. Clothing should not have references to drugs, alcohol or be sexually inappropriate. If visitors are not wearing appropriate clothing, they will be asked to leave.
 13. Any allowable items that are brought in for the patients/residents during visitation will be required to be left with the receptionist so that the standard inventory process can be followed. No items are permitted to be given directly to the patient/resident. All items will be subject to inspection before being given to the patient/resident.
 14. The Vines Hospital is unable to accept responsibility for visitor's valuables. Visitors will not be permitted in the designated visitation area carrying purses or packages.
 15. The following items are **not permitted** to be brought into the visitation area. Visitors will be asked to lock any of these items in their vehicle before starting their visitation.
 1. Any glass or breakable item.
 2. Any sharp items.
 3. Any ingestible substance such as vitamins, alcohol, medication, drugs, etc.
 4. Food or beverages

5. Purses, backpacks, or suitcases
 6. Cell phones, cameras, tape recorders or any other recording device
 7. Weapons of any kind; knives, guns, box cutters, etc.
16. Infection Control Policies covers infection control and education policies for visitors; screening, personal protective equipment, and other infection control protocols for visitors. These safety-related policies and procedures are not more stringent than those established for The Vines Hospital staff.
1. Visitors with fever, acute respiratory illness, vomiting, or diarrhea are requested **NOT** to visit patients.
 2. Signage and education on Covid-19 symptoms are posted for visitors. The Vines Hospital follows the recommendations provided by the CDC and the FDOH on infection control methods.
 3. Visitors are not required to provide proof of any vaccination or immunization. If a visitor is experiencing any symptoms noted in the Covid-19 education, they should postpone the visit.
17. Intoxicated or otherwise impaired visitors will **NOT** be permitted in the designated visitation area or on hospital grounds.
18. The facility permits consensual physical contact between a resident, client, or patient and the visitor where safe and clinically appropriate., i.e. hugs, handshake, etc.
1. No excessive displays of affection will be allowed during visitation time.
19. Failure to adhere to the rules for visitation will result in immediate termination of the visitation.
20. Nursing leadership or designated nursing staff are responsible for adherence of the facility's visitation policy.
21. 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/residents