

**St. Mary's Medical Center  
Policy and Procedure  
Patient Care Focused**

Title: **VISITING ON NURSING UNITS**

Number: RI - 140  
Page: 1 of 2

Approval:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President Nursing Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
President Date

Issue Date: April 16, 1993

Revision Dates: 2-04, 1-08, 7-10, 11-11,  
4-12

Review Dates: 12-01, 05-16

Review Cycle: 3 years

## **POLICY**

Visiting hours and regulations shall be maintained to allow patients, families and significant friends, time together during the hospitalization, and at the same time provide the patient with rest time, so as not to jeopardize his/her medical and nursing care.

1. Inform each patient (or representative, where appropriate) of his or her visitation rights, including any clinical restriction or limitation on such rights, when he or she is informed of his or her other rights under this section.
2. Inform each patient (or representative, where appropriate) of the right, subject to his or her consent, 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), another family member, or a friend, and his or her right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time.
3. Not restrict, limit, or otherwise deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.
4. Ensure that all visitors designated by the patient (or representative, where appropriate) enjoy visitation privileges that are no more restrictive than those that immediate family members would enjoy.
5. Children are allowed to visit. The Nurse Director or Nursing Supervisor has the discretion to limit visits by children when medically recommended.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **A. General Regulations applies to Nursing Units unless otherwise stated:**

1. Families/ Partners in care are welcome 24 hours a day according to patient preference.
2. For the rest and comfort of our patients, quiet time will be maintained after 8:00 PM.
3. Visits from members of the clergy are welcome at any time when requested by the patient or the patient's representative.
4. Patients are allowed privacy for visits.

**St. Mary's Medical Center  
Policy and Procedure  
Patient Care Focused**

Title: **VISITING ON NURSING UNITS**

Number: RI - 140  
Page: 2 of 2

5. The number of visitors at any time is guided by available space and patient's desire.
6. For confidentiality reasons visitors must wait in public areas when not in the patient's room, unless otherwise directed by the nursing staff.
7. There may be circumstances when a family member is allowed to remain at the patient's bedside over night if approved by the Nurse Manager or Nursing Supervisor.
8. Visitors with obvious signs of respiratory or skin infections should not visit in the units, or must wear a mask and/or gown, if visiting is considered essential to patient care.

**B. Critical Care Unit:**

The frequency and length of visits will be individualized to each patient.

**C. Operating Room:**

1. Medical professionals may visit at the discretion of the Chief of Surgery and must adhere to the dress code and other applicable Operation Room policies and/or standards.
2. Other visitors are not allowed in the Operating Room.

**D. Emergency Department:**

1. Visitors may be present with the patient in the room unless there is a clinical restriction.
2. Visitors will be limited when space and circumstances require.

**E. Adolescent Psych:**

Refer to department policies

**REFERENCES**

CMS, CoP §482.13 Patient rights

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-memorandum-hospital-visitation>

**ACCOUNTABILITY/RESPONSIBILITY FOR REVIEW**

Title of Position or Committee Responsible

Vice President Nursing

Patient Relations Manager