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SCOPE:

All inpatient care areas.

PURPOSE:

Visiting with family and friends is an important social contact which may provide comfort to hospitalized patients. We welcome visitors, yet feel it is the responsibility of the hospital to set visiting hours so that the patient may receive the very best care. Quiet, rest, and time for treatment are essential to quality patient care.

POLICY:

1. Visiting hours house wide with the expectation of ICU:
 - Are 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. for routine visitation.
 - We recognize that patient needs or wishes may dictate a family member or sitter with the patient beyond visiting hours and 1 visitor will be allowed to stay with the patient in their room after hours.
 - Visitors will be asked to remain in the room with the patient and, for safety reasons, will not be granted the ability to come and go from the unit.

2. Routine visiting hours in ICU:

Visitation is open 24 hours a day. Visitors will be asked to remain in the lobby during shift change from 6:00am – 8:00am and 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Depending on patient condition, routine visitation may be modified either by physician order or at the discretion of the unit coordinator or nurse caring for the patient. Children under the age of 12 and those with an infection are discouraged from visiting ICU patients and is at the discretion of the Unit Coordinator / nurse caring for the patient.

For additional information please refer to: f-drive Policies Nursing Service Critical Care, Visitors in ICU policy See 3 Patients have the right to choose who they want at their bedside. Limit two visitors per patient at one time. Exceptions regarding the number of visitors will be made at the discretion of the nurse

3. Visitors and patients are asked to speak quietly and avoid unnecessary noise.

4. We reserve the right to limit visitors at any given time. Restrictions on visitation may be applied for various reasons, including the following:
 - a. Medical reasons as determined by physician/nurse.
 - b. Patient/family request to limit visitors/phone calls, etc.
 - c. In special circumstances involving the security of a patient.
 - d. Limitations on visiting by persons with infectious disease/conditions are stated in patient handbook given to each patient upon registration for ambulatory care and inpatient services.
 - e. Children and infants are more susceptible to communicable disease and these standards are especially important to follow when children or infants are either the patient or visitor. Parents or guardians of infants and children must also be aware that some contagious diseases such as chicken pox may be spread by an infected child before there are noticeable signs of infection. Therefore, if a child has been exposed to chicken pox or other

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communicable diseases, this child must not visit until transmission of the infection has been ruled out. This may take several weeks. For questions about whether or not it is safe for a child to visit, the child's pediatrician or TRMC's Infection Control Preventionist should be consulted.

- f. More detailed guidelines necessary for specific units or services are found within those services' infection control guidelines and patient information.

5. Public Health Emergencies:

- a. Any patient, or their legal guardian, may designate those individuals who will be allowed to visit in-person regardless of immunization/vaccination status.
- b. Consensual non-sexual physical contact will not be limited.
- c. Visitors are subject to any health screenings or testing that may be warranted due to the public health emergency.
- d. Visitors will be expected to follow CDC guidelines for isolation and PPE.

PROCEDURE TO END VISITING HOURS:

1. At 8:45 p.m., the Switchboard Operator will announce:
"Attention all visitors. It is now 8:45pm. Visiting hours will end at 9:00 p.m. We kindly ask the cooperation of all visitors to ensure rest time for our patients."
2. At 9:00 p.m., the Switchboard Operator will announce:
"Attention all visitors. Visiting hours are now over. Attention all visitors. Visiting hours are now over. Thank you for your cooperation."
3. Nurses may make the following statement to visitors who remain after 9:15 p.m.:
"Sometimes it is difficult to hear the announcements over the paging system, but visiting hours have ended, and we want to make sure Mr. /Mrs. _____ get the rest he/she needs."
4. If necessary, the nurse may call Security to intervene after second reminder has not resulted in compliance.

REFERENCES:

Nursing Service Critical Care, Visitors in ICU policy

ORIGINATED BY: TRHS
 REVISED/APPROVED BY: Danna Caillouet
 REVISED/APPROVED BY: Executive Team
 REVISED/APPROVED BY: Executive Team

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