

We understand the important role family and loved ones have in supporting our patients. Extra precautions have been put into place during this national pandemic to protect the well-being of all patients and employees by limiting traffic in and out of the hospital, wearing appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment), practicing good hand-hygiene, maintaining social distancing, and limiting what outside personal items can be brought into the facility.

All non-employees coming into the facility must go through Visitor Screening at the front entrance of the hospital, 7 days per week, 5 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Caregivers are required to be screened upon arrival and are not allowed to frequently exit the facility; you must stay with the patient for extended periods of time. No caregiver who has tested positive for COVID-19 may enter the facility, unless they can provide documentation that they have since tested negative.

- Anyone exhibiting symptoms of illness will not be allowed in the facility (including temperatures over 100.4)
- All caregivers must be 16 years of age or older
- All caregivers must wear a mask at all times while in the facility, including in patient rooms when a hospital employee is present.

### **Password Protection**

Upon admission, the patient will provide a password so that communication can take place between the hospital staff and family members. This password is used for identification during the hospitalization. A point of contact (family member or caregiver over the age of 16) and a support plan are established upon admission. The point of contact will be communicated with, at a minimum of once a day, if requested.

### **Non-COVID Patients**

One caregiver is allowed if the patient's condition requires this level of assistance. Examples include pediatrics, maternity, dementia, or end of life.

### **COVID Positive Patients**

No caregivers are allowed with COVID positive patients except in extreme situations and only after a thorough education of the risk and PPE usage is completed.

### **End of Life**

One to two persons are allowed to support the patient during end of life care. If supporting a COVID positive patient, thorough education of the risk and PPE is required.

### **Pediatric Patients**

Pediatric patients having surgery may be escorted with their parents into Pre-op. Parents will wait in a designated waiting area and then come back to PACU when the surgery is complete.

### **Mother Baby Unit**

One caregiver is allowed per patient.

## **In an effort to limit what is brought into the facility, guidelines are as follows:**

### **Approved items that may be brought into the hospital for patients:**

- Clean clothes
- New (preferably) toiletries and grooming items – toothbrushes, combs, hair brushes, razors
- Personal items – books, magazines, puzzle books, family photos, etc.
- Electronics such as tablets and cell phones. These items are the responsibility of the patient to maintain and secure.
- Medications from home for a patient who is being admitted (no over the counter medications or vitamins)
- Flowers
- Comfort items (example: birthing pillow) are allowed in L&D and Mother/Baby
- Overnight bags are allowed in L&D and Mother/Baby

To maintain a safe and secure environment for all patients, staff and caregivers, a list of non-approved items has been compiled. Each person wishing to enter our facilities as caregivers must comply with our policies and agree to searches being conducted at the Visitor Screening location.

### **Non-Approved Items:**

- Blankets, pillows, or sleeping bags
- No weapons of any type (includes projectiles, knives, etc).

Caregivers with any non-approved items that are detected at our Visitor Screening location will be asked to return them to their vehicle, and/or dispose of the items in the nearest trash receptacle.

### **Food**

If food is brought from outside for patient consumption, it **MUST** comply with the diet type ordered by the physician. If caregivers bring food from outside that is not on the patient's prescribed diet, the food will be discarded and the caregiver will be banned from the facility. If the patient is under the Drug Abuse Policy, no food from outside may be brought to the patient.

- To avoid the need to exit/re-enter the hospital, we encourage on-campus food purchases at the cafeteria and vending machines. Caregivers can also order a guest meal by calling 43663 from the patient room. These meals must be paid for with a credit card.
- Food brought in from outside the facility is highly discouraged but is allowed. However, it must still be in the original (restaurant) packaging. If a delivery service is used it is the responsibility of the caregiver to retrieve the food from the front entrance and only during the hours of 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- No alcoholic beverages of any type are allowed on campus.

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work through this national pandemic and care for your family members.