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	NUMBER: QSP-ADM-GOV-0023	Revision Level: 1
FORMULATED: 01/2024	TITLE: Visitation Policy	
REVISED: July 23, 2025	APPROVAL: Kendra Keeney TITLE: Senior Vice President/COO	
REVIEWED:	SIGNATURE: 	
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Policy Statement:

Self Regional Healthcare respects the right of every patient to have designated visitors, including but not limited to, a spouse, a domestic partner (including same-sex domestic partner), another family member, or a friend. The hospital will honor a patient's right to identify those who may and may not visit while he or she is a patient in the hospital.

Visitation times may be restricted or limited at certain times and in certain patient care areas to ensure patient safety and protect patient privacy. Examples of clinical reasons for reasonable restrictions of visitation may include but are not limited to, the following: infection control issues; interference with patient care or causing physiological instability, compromising HIPAA law or policy; the hospital's awareness that there is an existing court order restricting contact; visitors engaging in disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior of any kind; the patient is undergoing care interventions or procedures, space issues, etc. It may also be necessary to limit the number of visitors for any one patient during a specific period of time.

Scope/Responsibility:

All Self Regional Healthcare Team Members and affiliates. All patients, their families, and other visitors of Self Regional Healthcare and its affiliates.

Process:

- Visiting Hours at Self Regional Healthcare are 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM each day, 7 days a week, except in Pediatrics, LDRP, Emergency Department and in the event of life-threatening emergencies and end-of-life scenarios
- All hospital visitors must enter through Entrance A unless related to ECC. For LDRP services, visitors may use the Childbirth Center entrance from 8:00 Am-5:00 PM Monday through Friday. During all other times, visitors must enter through Entrance A.
- Visitors of patients with confirmed or suspected respiratory illness must wear a mask. To encourage the healing process, visitors will be encouraged to end their patient visit at 8:00 pm. If the patient desires, one adult visitor may spend the night in the patient's room.
- Self Regional Healthcare, at its sole discretion, will determine which individuals are permitted into the facility during Visitation hours.
- Patients have the right to identify those who are permitted to visit with them while they are in the hospital. This identification can be made verbally or in writing prior to admission and provided to clinical staff as necessary, or it can be made at any time during the patient's stay.
- Each patient (or "support person" as appropriate) is informed of the visitation rights.
- A "support person" can be a family member, friend or anybody who supports the patient during the hospital stay and does not necessarily need to be the same as the representative who is legally responsible for making medical decisions on the patient's behalf.

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- Visitors will not be denied the opportunity to visit patients unless it is deemed to be harmful to the well-being of the patient. All visitors are also afforded the same access to the patient regardless of relationship. As mentioned previously, reasonable restrictions may be placed on the timing of visitation as well as the number of visitors.
- Self Regional Healthcare will not restrict, limit, or otherwise deny visitation privileges based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.
- All patients have the right to request assistance from a Care Team Member if feeling overwhelmed by visitors at any time. Visitors must leave if requested to do so.
- If a nurse/physician feels that a visitor poses a health risk, threat or disturbance to a patient, other patients/visitors, and team members, the nurse/physician will work with management (Director, Nursing Administration, etc.) or security personnel to discuss whether the visitor should be asked to leave the patient's room or the hospital premises.
- For the safety of patients and team members, any family member/visitor exhibiting signs and symptoms of any contagious illness are strongly discouraged from visiting.
- Visitors of Patients identified with high risk of suicidal ideation in Non-Behavior Units such as the ECC or Intensive Care Unit, etc. are monitored by the 1:1 Sitter during visitation. No items, personal or otherwise should be brought into the patient's room by a visitor. If visitors bring personal items for the patient, the RN should determine the appropriateness and should bring the approved items into the patient room. Refer to QSP-PCM-AOP-0005 Care of Suicidal Patients for further details.

Department specific exceptions to Visitation:

ICU/CICU:

- Due to space constraints as well as the criticality of unit patients, only two visitors are allowed at a time in the critical care areas. Visitors are expected to leave the patient's room when requested by the nurse or physician. The nurse may lengthen or shorten visits to promote patient health and safety.

Women's Center

- During active labor and for the immediate post-delivery period three visitors are allowed including the care partner. Visitors may not switch out during this time. Siblings of the newborn, irrespective of age, are welcome to visit for a period.
- Only one support person will be allowed in the room during epidural placement, a cesarean section, and throughout PACU.
- Any visitors not in the room for delivery should wait in the second-floor family waiting room for one of the support persons to call with updates on the delivery.

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Neonatal ICU

- For the protection and privacy of infants in the NICU, visitation will be limited and controlled. In certain situations, such as during delivery, admission, emergencies, or physician rounding, visitation may be limited beyond the criteria outlined below.
- Parents may visit anytime except between 6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. and from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. During these restricted times, clinicians are performing handoff procedures and need uninterrupted time to focus on patient assessment and other critical components of care.
- Four (4) patient representatives with parental permission may visit without the parent except between 6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., not to exceed two people at the bedside.
- Sibling children 12 years and older may visit provided they have no current signs or symptoms of illness and have no exposure to illnesses such as chickenpox within the last 14 days. Children must be accompanied by a parent or significant other of the mother (when paternity is questionable) at all times, must stay at the infant's bedside.
- Siblings of the baby 5 years and older may visit every Sunday from 2pm-4pm for 30 minutes each. During "Sibling Sunday", the sibling must remain with the parent (no more than 2 at bedside), have no signs or symptoms of illness, and must have required childhood immunizations including chickenpox. Siblings are not allowed to hold the baby.
- All persons entering the nursery will be required to perform a 2-minute hand wash up to the elbows using an antiseptic soap or a 1-minute handwash using the waterless product up to the elbows.

Pediatrics

- Visitation (24 hours/day) for parents or the patient's representative.
- Visiting hours are from 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. for all other visitors.
- A parent/representative should be in close proximity of the minor/child patient at all times. This is especially important as parent presence is required for consent for treatment. In the event this is not possible, any individual designated by the parent and over 18 years of age may sit with the child. Nurses should be informed who will be staying with the patient.
- In the event no one will be staying with the child, the parent should leave name of place and/or number where he/she can be reached should an emergency arise.
- Isolation patients may be visited by parents or the patient's representative. Other visitors may be restricted if needed.
- Children may visit in the patient's room. Children should have no signs or symptoms of illness and should not have been exposed to a communicable disease within the past 14 days.

PACU

- The environment and conditions in the PACU prohibit open visitation because of the need to protect patient privacy and ensure attention to critical needs. However, visitors are permitted in the PACU under special circumstances such as a special needs patient, confused or anxious patients, and minor patients. Any authorization for visitation will be granted at the discretion of the primary nurse, nurse manager, anesthesiologist, or surgeon.
- Visitation, if authorized, is only permitted when a patient is medically stable. Visitation will be limited to no more than two visitors.

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Behavioral Health Center (BHC)

- Visiting Hours are 5:30 PM-6:30 PM (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). Additionally, on Saturday and Sunday (to include holidays) visitors are welcome between 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
- Visitation on the BHC is restricted to two visitors per visit. All normal hours of visitation will be conducted in the dayroom. There will be no swapping out of visitors during the visiting hours. Visitors on the BHC must be 16 years of age and each visitor will be screened by hospital security prior to entering the unit.
- All special visitations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- Patients that are COVID-19 positive, have the Flu, or RSV will not be permitted to have visitation during the normal visitation hours.
- Special visitation can be established with the appropriate order from the provider and a team member will be present with the visitor and the patient.
- All visitors must wear a mask during the special visitation.

Emergency Department

- Visitation is allowed 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.
- Due to space constraints only 2 visitors are allowed with patient in the treatment area at a time and may swap out.
- Visitation may be modified during times of secured access for the safety of patients, visitors and team members.

References (if not noted elsewhere in policy):

1. The Self Regional Healthcare Patient and Family Experience Guide given at the time of registration:
 - "Visiting Hours" (page 7)
2. Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Interpretive Guidelines for Hospitals
3. QSP-PCM-AOP-0005 Care of Suicidal Patients