

Title: Visiting Policy

I. Purpose:

St. Luke's University Health Network's visitation policy is designed to protect patients' safety, privacy and increase their comfort. The purpose of this policy is to create a reasonable, enforceable policy that provides all patients with the opportunity to rest and recover in comfortable, quiet surroundings while enabling family and friends to participate in the healing process; to enhance the cohesiveness of the family unit and the patient's support systems; and to provide access control that protects the rights of patients, visitors, and employees to a safe, secure and orderly environment.

II. Definitions:

Family or Family Member: The terms "family" or "family member" at St. Luke's University Health Network are understood and interpreted to include any person(s) who plays a significant role in the individual's socio-emotional life.

Visitors: Visitors may include but not be limited to a spouse, a domestic partner (including a same sex domestic partner), another family member or a friend.

III. Procedure

1. St Luke's University Health Network accommodates flexible visitation for patients' family.
2. Select units, including Hospice In-Patient Unit, have specific criteria for visiting patients. The medical and nursing staff may make exceptions for visiting based on the patient's condition and to meet the patient's needs. To confirm visiting guidelines or discuss special circumstances, we encourage visitors to call the specific campus and ask to speak with a nurse in the hospital department they plan to visit.
3. Over night stays for adult visitors should be discussed and approved by the patient's nurse, patient care manager, or hospital supervisor for evenings, nights and weekends. Particular cases may warrant consultation with the attending physician.
4. For patient privacy and confidentiality, as well as their own safety, children under 12 years of age must be under the direct supervision of an adult at all times while visiting the hospital Children are not permitted to spend the night in a patient's room.
5. In consideration of the other patients, a limit of visitors to two persons at a time can be requested by nursing staff.

6. To ensure the privacy of the patient, visitors may be asked to leave the room during a procedure or treatment.
7. Disruptive or unruly visitors will be requested to leave the patient care area. Security may assist if necessary.
8. Visitors with a contagious illness are discouraged from visiting patients as to not compromise the patient's recovery. Nursing staff may encourage visitors to wear a mask as necessary.
9. Visitors are encouraged to wash their hand before and after coming in contact with patients.
10. Patients and/or patients' representatives will sign the general consent, which informs them of the patient's right to choose who may visit during their hospital stay. The patient and/or patient representative have the right to withdraw these privileges at any time during their stay.
11. Patients requiring care related to substance abuse, overdose or addiction may have their visiting privileges revoked for their safety and the safety of staff, following an event of self-administration of, suspected illicit controlled substances.

IV. Disclaimer Statement

This policy and procedure is intended to provide a description of a course of action to comply with legal requirements and/or operational standards. There may be specific circumstances not contemplated by this policy and procedure that may make compliance either unclear or inappropriate. For advice in these circumstances, consult with your Chain of Command, Administrator on Call, Clinical Risk Management, Legal Services, Accreditation and Standards, or Compliance Officer, as appropriate.