

**DOCTORS' MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
PERRY, FLORIDA**

Policies and Procedures Manual

APPROVAL DATE: 04/2022**DEPARTMENT: Administration****SCOPE: Hospital-Wide****SUBJECT: Visitation and Masking Guidelines**

Reviewed Date: n/a

Revised Date: 05/2022, 6/2022, 11/2022, 7/2023

I. PURPOSE:

Doctors' Memorial Hospital (DMH) strives to create an environment centered on family, community and, safety for our patients, their families, and our colleagues. DMH understands the importance of partner and family support during the healing process and believes it is a vital part of daily operations.

II. POLICY:

It is the policy of DMH to deliver quality healthcare and promote patient satisfaction by systematically keeping their family, caregivers, and friends aware of procedures. These guidelines, with respect to patient visitation in common areas and clinical units, help to ensure health equality for all.

Facial coverings and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) recommendations and/or requirements may be reviewed and reassessed with national and state standards, state, and federal laws, rules and regulations in the event of a community outbreak.

Unless otherwise noted, all other DMH policies, procedures, and, guidance that encourage or require the use of facial coverings are subject to standards, protocols, and provisions herein. This policy does not apply to the use of PPE that is recommended and/or required for chemical or physical hazards.

III. DEFINITIONS:

- a. Visitor- any person at a DMH campus who is not employed or a patient
- b. Colleague- any person under employment or contract of DMH including healthcare practitioners, administrative staff, maintenance staff, aides, contractors, students, and vendors.
- c. Patient- the person receiving services from DMH healthcare providers

- d. DMH Location- Any of the DMH-owned campuses, facilities, premises, or locations.
- e. Sterile area- locations where surgery is conducted or procedures require aseptic techniques
- f. Common area- any area in the health care setting where patients are not treated, diagnosed, or examined.

IV. **PROCEDURE:**

A. Visiting Hours and Access

- a. Hospital visiting hours are 9am-9pm daily.
 - i. The main lobby entrance will be open for use from 7am-6pm daily.
 - ii. The Cafeteria entrance will be open for use during Café Hours, Monday-Friday.
 - iii. Use of main hospital access from the Emergency Department will be restricted.
- b. For any assistance required after visiting hours, security is to be contacted at 850-584-0688 or (850)-672-0372. Security may also be reached by radio.

B. Visitation

- a. In-person visitation is permitted in all circumstances, unless visitation is refused by the patient.
- b. There are no limitations on the number of visitors with the following exceptions:
 - a. Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Emergency Department (ED) patients are encouraged to limit visitors to two (2) on a rotating basis, providing visitors do not impede the progress of patient care.
 - b. Outpatient Surgery and Infusion Clinic will permit one (1) visitor per adult patient and two (2) visitors per pediatric patient.
- c. The patient has the right to receive family members and guests they designate and may withdraw consent or deny entrance at any time.
- d. The number of people welcomed at the bedside will be determined in collaboration with the patient, family, and care team.
 - i. In situations where there are shared rooms, input will include both patients and their families, as well as considerations for safety of physical space.
- c. Pediatric patients under the age of 12 years must have one parent or guardian (over the age of 18) accompanying them at all times.
- d. Family members and guests will not be denied or restricted based on their race, color, nationality, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

- e. Children under the age of 12 years are discouraged from visiting patients. In special circumstances, permission may be received by the Director of Nursing or their designee, i.e., the Charge Nurse.
- f. Visitors are discouraged from bringing food to the hospital.
 - a. In certain circumstances, the physician may allow the patient to have food brought from outside sources. The family or visitors should check with the patient's nurse or charge nurse ensure this is permissible.
- g. Visitors are encouraged to wash their hands when visiting DMH. Hand sanitizer can be found in all hallways and within each patient room. Soap is supplied in the restrooms, and within each patient room.
- h. Private caregivers may be used; however, arrangements must be made between the patient or patient's family and the caregiver.
 - a. Private Caregivers may not perform any nursing functions for the patient while hospitalized. Caregivers are to notify the care team of any patient needs.
 - b. Private Caregivers will not have access to any patient records.
 - c. DMH does not participate in the financial arrangements of private caregivers.

C. **Masking Requirements**

DMH reserves the right to require the use of masks at DMH Locations in other circumstances consistent with national and state standards, and state and federal laws, rules, requirements, or regulations. While masks are defined above in this policy, there may be situations where a specific level of mask protection is required.

- a. **Visitors** may be required to wear a mask in the following circumstances:
 - i. The visitor exhibits signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
 - ii. The visitor is entering a sterile area of the facility or an area where a sterile procedure is being performed.
 - iii. The visitor is entering an in-patient room or clinical room with a patient who is exhibiting signs or symptoms of or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.
 - iv. The visitor is entering a room of a patient with a condition affecting the immune system in a manner that is known to increase the risk of infection from others without signs or symptoms of infection. In this case, a treating practitioner may determine that facial coverings are necessary for patients' safety.
- b. **Patients** may be required to wear a mask in the common area of DMH if they are exhibiting signs and/or symptoms or has a diagnosed infectious disease that can be spread through droplet or airborne transmission.

- c. **Colleagues** should avoid entering the facility if they are sick. Colleagues will be required to mask in the following circumstances:
 - i. Conducting sterile procedures or working in a sterile area.
 - ii. Working with or treating patients who have been diagnosed with a condition affecting the immune system in a manner that is known to increase the risk of infection from others without signs or symptoms of infection.
 - iii. With a patient on droplet or airborne isolation
 - iv. Engaging in a non-clinical potentially hazardous activity that requires facial covering or prevents physical injury or harm in accordance with industry standards.

V. **REFERENCES**

- a. [SB 988 No Patient Left Alone Act](#) (F.S. 408.823)
- b. [SB 525 Protections from Discrimination Based on Health Care Choices](#)
- c. [59AER23-2 ACHA Standards for the Appropriate use of Facial Coverings for Infection Prevention](#)

Original with Signature on file in Administration
