

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: PATIENT VISITING AND DESIGNATION OF VISITORS

POLICY NO. 109A

PURPOSE

To outline patient visitation practices at the hospital.

POLICY

Each patient at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center shall have the right to designate visitors of his/her choosing, regardless of whether the visitors are related by blood or marriage, including domestic partnership, unless:

- No visitors are allowed,
- The hospital reasonably determines that the presence of a particular visitor would endanger individuals at the hospital staff, or would significantly disrupt the hospital's operations, or
- The patient has notified the healthcare provider that s/he no longer wants a particular person to visit.

The hospital may establish reasonable restrictions upon visitation, including restrictions upon the hours of visitation and number of visitors. Nonetheless, the hospital may not restrict, limit, or otherwise deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. Additionally, this policy ensures that all visitors designated by the patient (or patient support person where appropriate) enjoy visitation privileges that are no more restrictive than those that immediate family members would enjoy.

The hospital shall inform patients of its visitation policies upon admission.

DECISION GUIDANCE

If the patient is incapable of making a decision, and the legally authorized patient representative or patient support person is not available to exercise the patient's rights on his/her behalf, the hospital is to consider the patient's wishes, if known, for the purposes of determining who may visit. At a minimum, the hospital should grant visitation rights to:

- Individuals living in the same household, which shall include any family members or domestic partners.
- Children of the patient's spouse or domestic partner.
- The spouse or domestic partner of the patient's parent or child.

Additionally, the hospital may use forms of proof to assist them in establishing the appropriateness of a visitor, such as shared residence, shared ownership, financial interdependence, marital/relationship status, acknowledgment of a committed relationship. For the purpose of obtaining this information, the hospital

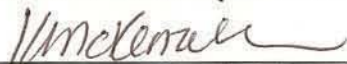
EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/99


SUPERSEDES:

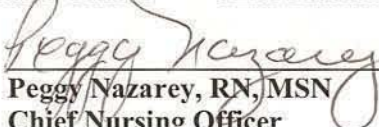
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may choose to examine Driver's licenses, State identification cards, bank statements, deeds, lease agreements, affidavits (acknowledging committed relationships), etc. This information will be used to guide the development and implementation of hospital policies and procedures that ensure a balance between patient safety and patient access to loved ones and will not be used to negate the patient of his/her visitation rights.

The preceding information may also be used by the Patient Advocate for mediation purposes in the event a conflict emerges between a visitor and the legally authorized patient representative or patient support person.

The hospital may need to place restrictions or limitations on visitation due, but not limited, to the following:

- Any court order limiting or restraining contact;
- Behavior presenting a direct risk or threat to the patient, hospital staff, or others in the immediate environment;
- Behavior disruptive of the functioning of the patient care unit;
- Reasonable limitations on the number of visitors at any one time;
- Patient's risk of infection by the visitor;
- Visitor's risk of infection by the patient;
- Extraordinary protections because of a pandemic or infectious disease outbreak;
- Substance abuse treatment protocols requiring restricted visitation;
- Patient's need for privacy or rest;
- Need for privacy or rest by another individual in the patient's shared room.

DEFINITIONS:

DOMESTIC PARTNERS: Two adults who have chosen to share one another's lives in an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring, in accordance with specific provisions of existing law.

PATIENT SUPPORT PERSON: A person (family member, friend, or other individual) who is there to support the patient during the course of their stay. The patient support person does not need to be the legally authorized representative, though it is certainly possible for both roles to be filled by the same individual.

AUTHORITY:

County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services Policy No. 380, Patient Visitation.

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 70707.

Health and Safety Code Section 1261.

Family Code Section 297.

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Part 482, Section 13.