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VISITOR POLICY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Summary of April 30, 2020 Updates:
- Removed requirement of approval from Chief of Infection Control or designee for End of Life visitation that meets requirements of policy
- Clarified that any exceptions to the policy must be approved through Infection Control or designee
- Addition of CoV-19-19 presumed infection status
- Clarified under Special Populations to include patients with delirium, at the discretion of the Nurse Director
- Allow for up to 2 visitors at a time for End of Life patients only
- Clarification that timing and duration of visits are at the discretion of nursing staff

Background
In the setting of the COVID-19 pandemic, no visitors are allowed on Partners premises with limited exceptions outlined below. Additional details regarding implementation may be provided by individual facilities.

Policy
- **No visitors are allowed on Partners premises.**
- Exceptions will only be considered in the following circumstances:
  - End of life
  - Labor and delivery
  - Pediatric patients
  - Special populations
- See below for the specific requirements associated with each of these exceptions
- Any requests for visitors or circumstances not included in this policy must be approved in advance by local Infection Control or their designee.

Screening of Visitors
If a visitor meets one of the exceptions above, they will be screened for the following:
1. Symptoms consistent with COVID-19 per current Partners guidance.
2. Confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Visitors will not be allowed to visit if they have any of the following:
- Any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or
- Positive test for COVID-19 in the prior 14 days without ≥ 2 tests documenting clearance of infection

Documentation of screening can be facilitated through use of the visitor screening smartphrase in EPIC.

This policy or guidance document was developed based on currently available published guidance, in the setting of available supplies and clinical situations at our institutions. Decisions are made collaboratively and are based on ongoing risk-assessments of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. This policy or guidance document represents the best recommendations as April 30, 2020, will be reviewed regularly, and is subject to change as the situation evolves.
Masking of Visitors and Other Populations
1. Visitors: All visitors will be provided one surgical or procedural mask immediately upon arrival and are required to wear the mask continually until they leave the building, per Universal Mask Policy.
2. Other populations: Vendors, Contractors, Emergency Medical Services Personnel, and Law Enforcement will be provided one surgical or procedural mask immediately upon arrival and are required to wear the mask continually until they leave the building, per Universal Mask Policy.

Behavior of Permitted Visitors
1. All visitors will schedule their visits in advance with the unit point of contact.
2. Number of visitors allowed at one time to enter facility:
   a. For End of Life Patients: Up to two are allowed at the discretion of leadership.
   b. For Labor and Delivery, Pediatrics, and Special Populations: a single visitor is allowed.
3. All visitors must wear their mask throughout their visit to the facility. Additional personal protective equipment will be provided as per specific instructions below as indicated.
4. Visitors must remain within the patient room for the entirety of their visit.
5. Visitors are not permitted to visit the cafeteria, gift shop, or other common areas of the hospital
6. Visitors must exit the hospital directly and expeditiously upon leaving the patient’s room
7. Duration and timing of the visit is at the discretion of local nursing leadership or their designee

Visiting patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (COVID-19, CoV-Presumed and CoV-Risk) or patients possibly exposed to COVID-19 (CoV-Exposed).
1. Pediatric considerations are discussed separately.
2. For adult patients, in extreme circumstances as outlined below, visitors will:
   a. Be informed of the risks to their health of visiting.
   b. If they will maintain a distance of 6 feet from the patient, then no additional PPE is required.
   c. If they anticipate close contact with the patient, then the visitor will be instructed to don a gown, gloves, and eye protection in addition to their mask and instructed on removal of PPE prior to exit of the room.
   d. Visitors must perform hand hygiene frequently, before entry to the room, and upon exit from the room.

Visiting All Other Patients (Patients who are not COVID-19, CoV-Presumed, CoV-Risk, or CoV-Exposed)
1. Visitors permitted to visit as an exception to Visitor Restriction (see below), will be screened as per above and will conduct themselves according to “Behavior for Permitted Visitors,” above.

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Requirements for Permitted Visitors to Specific Patient Populations

1. **End of Life**
   a. Up to two visitors are allowed at the discretion of leadership.
   b. There are no additional restrictions on time spent with the patient in the patient’s room or requirements for physical distancing within the room.

2. **Obstetrics (laboring or post-partum patient)**
   a. Asymptomatic laboring patients are permitted to have one Partner/Support person who is asymptomatic as per above.
   b. Laboring patients who are confirmed COVID-19, CoV-Confirmed COVID-19 (CoV-Risk), and with known exposure to COVID-19 (CoV-Exposed), are permitted to have one Partner/Support person who is asymptomatic as per above.
   c. There are no additional restrictions on time spent with the patient in the patient’s room or requirements for physical distancing within the room.

3. **Pediatrics**
   a. All children admitted to a Pediatric Inpatient Unit, including those with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, will be allowed 1 asymptomatic adult (> age 18 years) visitor, either a parent or other caregiver at a time, as per above.
   b. There are no additional restrictions on time spent with the patient in the patient’s room or requirements for physical distancing within the room, to permit the most supportive care environment for children.
   c. The **SAME** caregiver will be encouraged to stay with the patient during the entire admission, with no access to shared patient and family spaces on the pediatric inpatient unit.
   d. Decisions about whether the caregiver can accompany the patient off the inpatient unit for a procedure will be made on a case-by-case basis.
   e. Asymptomatic parents/caregivers of pediatric patients hospitalized with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will be instructed to practice isolation if they return home.
   f. As parents are not in PPE while in the patient room parents/caregivers of a pediatric patient will be instructed to shower or change into a new set of clothes before leaving the inpatient environment or, if not available, when arriving home. They are instructed to shower and change into a new set of clothes before re-entering the inpatient environment.
   g. Parents/caregivers are instructed to practice CDC-recommended best practices regarding hand-washing, physical distancing, and minimization of exposures **while in the community**, including separation from any sick household members who are in self-isolation.

4. **Special Populations**
   a. At the discretion of the Nurse Director of the Unit, caregiver of adult patients who have special needs including intellectual or developmental disorders (e.g. autism, Down syndrome, genetic disorders, etc.), psychological

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/neurological disorders, delirium, deafness, or blindness will be considered, subject to all the restrictions above.

b. There are no additional restrictions on time spent with the patient in the patient’s room or requirements for physical distancing within the room.