**PURPOSE:**

To have a written policy and procedure regarding the visitation rights of all patients and setting forth clinically necessary or reasonable restrictions or limitations that Palm Beach Health Network (PBHN) may need to place on such rights in accordance with the No Patient Left Alone Act (s. 408.823, F.S.).

**SCOPE:**

All Patient Service Areas

**POLICY:**

It is the goal of PBHN to provide a safe and therapeutic environment that supports the patient’s plan of care.

1. Patients have the right, subject to their consent, to receive the visitor(s) who they designate, including, but not limited to, a spouse, a domestic partner/significant other, a family member, or friend.
   1. A support person of the patient's choice, unless the individual's presence infringes on others' rights, safety, or is medically or therapeutically contraindicated is able to stay with the patient to provide emotional support during the patient's course of stay. This includes overnight stays.
2. Patients have the right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time. Where appropriate, this right may be exercised by the patient’s support person on the patient’s behalf.
3. The facility will allow in-person visitation under specified circumstances including: (this list directly from SB verbiage)
   1. End-of-Life situations.
   2. A patient who was living with their family before being admitted to the provider’s care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
   3. The patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
   4. The patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
   5. A patient who needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
   6. A patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
   7. Childbirth, including labor and delivery and if applicable Neonatal Intensive Care
   8. Pediatric patients.
4. The facility may require that a visitor agree in writing to the visitation policy and has the right to suspend a visitor, including:
   1. Behavior disruptive of the functioning of the patient care unit;
   2. Behavior presenting a direct risk or threat to the patient, hospital staff, or others in the immediate environment;
   3. Patient is undergoing a medical procedure;
   4. Patient's risk of infection by the visitor;
   5. Visitor's risk of infection by the patient;
   6. Extraordinary protections due to pandemic or infectious disease outbreak;
   7. Patient's need for privacy or rest;
   8. Any court order limiting or restraining contact
5. Special Care units' visitation hours may vary. Upon admission to a special care unit, patients and visitors will be receive information regarding visiting hours, rules and restrictions, if applicable.
   1. All patient care areas may apply specific restriction on visitation based upon the patient's need, physician orders and plan of care and for protection of all patient rights. These will be discussed with the patient and the patient's visitors.
6. ***By entering any hospital, visitors are attesting to COVID-19 screening per CDC Guidelines****.*
7. Patients are allowed 1 visitor at a time*.*

*Exceptions will be addressed in response to individual patient needs, and/or patient care operations.*

1. Visitation for patients with suspected or confirmed communicable disease requiring isolation precautions.
   1. Visitation will be allowed in-person under specified circumstances as stated in above under #3.
   2. Visitors must adhere to current CDC guidelines.
2. Visitors will be required to wear a face mask at all times.
3. Hand Hygiene
   1. Hand hygiene is required to be performed, at a minimum, in the following circumstances:
      1. Upon entering and exiting the facility
      2. Upon entering and exiting patient rooms
4. All visitors are required to check in at the information desk in the hospital lobbies. A badge will be issued and is to be worn throughout the visitor's stay. A new visitor pass must be issued daily, or if the patient changes room.
5. Restricted visitation may be imposed by choice by the patient, family, physician, Police, DCF and/or any other Regulatory Agencies. To impose any restrictions the patient or designated health care proxy must complete the restricted visitation form and submit completed form to the Hospital's Security Supervisor.
6. ***Visitors are directed to check with the patient’s nurse prior to entering, patient room or care area, for assistance with education and appropriate PPE.***

**REFERENCES**

Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 42 CFR 482.13

The Joint Commission Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals. Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual (RI), RI.01.01.01, EP28, 29. Sept. 2012.

Federal Register / Vol. 75, No. 223 / Friday, November 19, 2010 / Rules and Regulations. Changes to the Hospital Conditions of Participation to Ensure Visitation Rights to All Patients, pg. 70831-70844.

Standard and Transmission Based Precaution Policy, 05/2021

**No Patient Left Alone Act, s. 403.823, F.S.**