Visitation During COVID-19 Pandemic

Guideline

Ventura County Medical Center, Santa Paula Hospital and Ambulatory Care Clinics is limiting visitors for patients during the declared local health emergency due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. We encourage patients to keep in contact with their loved ones through virtual means, including Skype, FaceTime and/or phone. Staff will assist patient if needed.

Procedure

General Visitation Process

A. Due to the documented community transmission of COVID-19, there will be no visitors allowed in the hospital except for:
   1. Parents of hospitalized children.
   2. Support person of a laboring woman.
   4. Patient for whom a support person is medically necessary, including those with disabilities or cognitive impairment.
   5. Exceptions to these restrictions can be made in specific circumstances, with approval from the House Supervisor or Administrator on Duty.

B. All visitors must check-in at a point of entry and participate in a mandatory COVID-19 screening.
   1. Visitors with symptoms or a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit and higher will not be allowed to enter.
   2. VCMC and SPH are practicing universal masking during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected that the visitor will keep his or her face covered during the duration of his or her visit, whether inside or outside the patient's room.
   3. Visitors who have successfully completed the COVID-19 screening and met all criteria will be issued a wristband, be identified as having cleared the screening process, and then can proceed to their destination.
   4. No visitors under the age of 18 shall be allowed unless they are parents of hospitalized children, or the significant other of a laboring woman.
5. Service animals will continue to be allowed entrance.

C. Visitors are restricted to patient rooms, and should only briefly be in the lobby, waiting areas, common spaces, cafeteria, or any other area within the hospital or campus.

D. Visitors of COVID-19 positive patients will be asked to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment while in the patient’s room, including: gown, gloves, eye protection, and a mask. The mask worn by a visitor may be a surgical mask, an N95 respirator with a qualitative fit check, a powered air purifying respirator (PAPR), or a 6800, as appropriate. Visitors will be asked to complete a 14 day quarantine after visitation. Physicians should document that he or she has discussed the potential risk of infection associated with visitation, and that visitor(s) has acknowledged that risk, and has chosen to proceed with visitation.

**Ambulatory Care Clinics**

A. Ambulatory Care Clinics have a no visitor policy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Exceptions will be made for minors and those who require a caregiver's assistance.

B. All other exceptions will need approval from the clinic manager and only to facilitate the understanding and coordination of care for complex medical diagnoses.

**Labor & Delivery and OB Postpartum:**

A. Only one adult visitor per patient in labor/new mother.
   
   1. Single visitor may be less than 18 years old if significant other to the laboring mother.

B. A COVID-19 negative laboring patient may also have a trained doula accompanying her, in addition to her support person.

C. If the patient is COVID-19 positive, she shall be limited to one visitor, who is not ill.

**NICU, Pediatrics and PICU:**

A. The family of each pediatric patient is allowed to name up to two primary caregivers for the duration of the hospital stay.
   
   1. The caregivers should be parents or legal guardians and must be in good health and cannot change during the patient’s hospitalization.
   
   2. Both primary caregivers may be present in the hospital at the same time.

B. COVID-19 positive pediatric patients will be allowed only one designated caregiver who should stay with the patient in their room during that patient’s stay.

**End-of-Life Care**

A. Two visitors are allowed at a time for COVID-19 negative patients. Other family members need to remain outside of the facility to rotate in special circumstances.

B. COVID-19 positive patients will be allowed one pre-determined visitor per day.

C. All requests for exceptions to these rules should go to the Administrator on Duty.
Disability or Cognitive Impairment

A. One adult support person may accompany a patient when that person's presence is determined to be essential to the care of the patient.

B. COVID-19 positive patients will be allowed one pre-determined visitor per day.

All revision dates: 7/20/2020, 6/16/2020, 5/21/2020, 4/1/2020

Attachments

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step Description</th>
<th>Approver</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PolicyStat Administrator</td>
<td>Jason Arimura: Director-Pharmacy Services</td>
<td>7/20/2020</td>
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<td>Policy Owner</td>
<td>Todd Flosi, MD: Chief Medical Officer</td>
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