

Guidelines for visitation/photography of obstetric patients

Cell phones and wireless communication devices may be used in patient care areas. Note: these devices should be turned off within six feet of patient care equipment such as infusion pumps and ventilators.

Use of cell phones or other technologies to obtain photos is restricted.

If anyone has a cold or flu symptoms they are not permitted to visit due to the risk to the babies on the unit. For the safety of our patients and their newborns, all visitors will be given a pass to wear while on the unit. These will be given by the security guard at the second floor desk.

TRIAGE

- An initial 30-minute nursing assessment will be completed without visitors present.
- Since triage is a three-bed unit, visitation may be restricted to ensure privacy for all patients. Visitors may be asked to leave while procedures are being performed on other patients in the room or if the patient's condition warrants.
- Due to limited space and privacy, the patient may have one visitor at a time during the triage period.
- Patient's support person may walk in the hallway with the patient.
- Children are NOT permitted in triage.

LABOR AND DELIVERY (VISITATION IS PERMITTED 24 HOURS A DAY)

- An initial 30-minute nursing assessment will be completed without visitors present.
- Two visitors (including support person) are permitted during labor.
- During delivery, three visitors will be permitted at patient request.
- Following delivery, three visitors (including support person) are permitted to visit with the mother and newborn. Visitors may rotate as long as there are no more than three visitors with passes on the unit at a time.
- Breastfeeding mothers are encouraged to breastfeed before other family and friends visit.
- Photographing/videotaping is only permitted after the delivery, evaluation and stabilization of the newborn.
- Please ask the staff for permission before beginning photography.
- **No children younger than 14 except siblings (brothers and sisters) of the infant are to visit and must be accompanied by an adult (no exceptions).**

CESAREAN BIRTH

- An initial 30-minute nursing assessment will be completed without visitors present.
- Two visitors (including support person) may be with the patient during preparation for surgery.
- Support person may accompany the patient to surgery when the patient has epidural or spinal anesthesia. If the patient is to receive or has received general anesthesia, the support person is not permitted in the operating room.
- Two visitors at a time (including support person) are permitted to visit the patient in the recovery room.
- Since the recovery room is a three-bed unit, visitation may be restricted to ensure privacy for all patients. Visitors may be asked to leave while procedures are being performed on other patients in the room or if the patient's condition warrants.
- Photographing/videotaping is strictly prohibited during a cesarean section.
- Still photography of the newborn may be permitted after the stabilization and evaluation of the newborn.
- Please ask the staff for permission before beginning photography.

MOTHER/BABY (VISITATION HOURS ARE 9 A.M. TO 9 P.M. DAILY)

- Visitation is limited to two visitors and the support person (identified by infant ID band) with the exception of siblings **or** the support person and both sets of grandparents. Both sets of grandparents may visit at the same time.
- Short visits by siblings, who are not sick, during visiting hours are permitted with the supervision of an adult other than the postpartum patient.
- To ensure the privacy of other patients, photographs shall be taken only in the patient's room during the postpartum period.
- Photographing through the nursery window is prohibited.
- No children younger than 14, except siblings (brothers and sisters) of the infant are to visit and must be accompanied by an adult (no exceptions).
- If anyone has a cold or flu symptoms they are asked not to visit and may also be asked to leave if they are sick.
- After delivery, patients may choose to have their support person stay the night if they are in a private room. If there are two occupants, the support person must adhere to the 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. visitation guidelines.

ANTEPARTUM

- Antepartum patients may have three visitors, one of which is identified as a support person and two other visitors from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. If a patient has other children, they may also visit during visiting hours and are asked to keep sibling visits short to allow the patient to rest.
- Antepartum patients may choose to have their support person stay the night if they are in a private room. If there are two occupants, the support person must adhere to the 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. visitation guidelines.

BOARDER BABIES

- Boarder baby parents may visit 24 hours a day. The mother and father, or the person with the fourth band must present their bands with every visit, or they will not be permitted to visit the baby. Visitation is limited to parents and grandparents only, due to limited visitation space. If grandparents wish to visit, they have to be with a person wearing the infant ID band, or they will not be permitted on the unit.
- If a sibling wishes to visit, the parents have to make arrangements with the nursery to ensure adequate space for visitation. Siblings are not permitted in the nursery, only the visitation room. Sibling visits need to be made during regular visiting hours, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- If anyone has a cold or flu symptoms they are not permitted to visit due to the risk to the babies on the unit.

(At times these guidelines may be changed to meet the needs of our patients.)

