


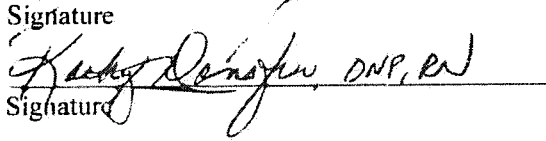
Swedish Hospital

Part of **NorthShore**

Department 01 Administration
Cost Center 951
Policy 08 Patient Visitation

Submitted by: Nicholas O'Hearn, RN, MSN, MBA, APN/ACNS-BC

Approved by:


Signature

Signature

Chair, Safety Committee

Title

11/7/22
Date

Chief Nursing Officer

Title

11/10/22
Date

Effective Date: October 1989 Revised: 5/13, 1/17, 11/20, 9/22, 11/22

Reviewed: _____

POLICY

Swedish Hospital (SW) recognizes the importance of visitation to the comfort and healing of our patients.

1. Patient Visitation Guidelines

- a. Patient visiting hours are between 11AM and 8:00 PM. Exceptions to this policy may be made by administrator on call, the nursing supervisor or unit charge nurse. In the ICU/IMCU in the event the patient is not expected to live visitation may occur at any time.
- b. Visitors agree to abide by Hospital rules with regard to conduct, and to be considerate of all patients and Hospital staff.
 - 1) The hospital reserves the right to limit patient visitation in certain cases and certain areas, including but not limited to patient condition, unit circumstances, procedures, departments, or nurse/physician clinical judgment.
 - 2) Patients have the right to designate visitors, including but not limited to, a spouse, a domestic partner (including a same-sex domestic partner), another family member, or a friend, and the right to withdraw or deny consent to visitation.
 - 3) In order to maintain and foster an environment conducive to healing and in respect of the privacy of all patients, staff is trained to control the number of visitors a patient has at any given time without violating their visitation rights. Visitation may be limited to the following:
 - 4) Limited to 2 visitors at a time, regardless of age, in the ICU/IMCU
 - 5) Limited to 2 visitors at a time, regardless of age, in a semi-private room
 - 6) Limited to 4 visitors at a time, regardless of age, in a private room.
 - 7) Additional visitors may be directed to wait in designated waiting areas and expected to act in a manner appropriate for the environment.
 - 8) Patients' visitation rights are posted in all clinical area and included in the admission packet given to each patient and or support person

2. Child Visitor(s) (Inpatient and Outpatient)

- a. Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) visiting hour guidelines are between the hours of 9:00 AM and 8:00 PM for children under the age of twelve (12).
- b. For the safety of child visitors, children under the age of twelve (12) must be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult (other than the patient) at all times. Children left with a patient should be placed in the care of the non-patient parent or family member or some other responsible adult chosen by the patient. If there is no one who can assume care of the minor child, the child will be temporarily turned over to the custody of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).
- c. Parents/Guardians are required to make certain that their children behave safely in a manner appropriate for the healthcare setting (no yelling, running, jumping on furniture, or any other behavior that poses a safety risk to other patients, visitors, and staff members). Hospital Staff may ask Parent/Guardians to monitor their children's behavior.
- d. A minor is not allowed to stay overnight with any patient on any unit.

3. Infection Control

- a. Visitors are expected to wash their hands or use waterless soap gel before and after entering a patient's room.
- b. Children visiting or accompanying patients during scheduled appointments must be free of signs of illness or communicable disease.

c. Patients Under Isolation Precautions

- 1) Visitors should always speak with nursing staff prior to entering the patient's room of a patient under isolation precautions for instructions regarding the proper use and disposal of protective equipment.
- 2) For the health and safety of visitors as well as the patient, the number of visitors at any given time may be limited for patients under isolation precautions.

d. Visitors with Potential Communicable Diseases

- 1) For the protection of SW patients and visitors, and to minimize the spread of potentially communicable diseases, visitors experiencing flu-like symptoms (such as fever, sore throat, cough, vomiting, etc.), or who have been exposed to a communicable disease, are asked to postpone patient visitation until symptoms resolve. Bringing very young infants and children to visit a hospitalized family member may put the infant, child, and patient at risk of contracting an illness.
- 2) For the protection of all SW patients and visitors, hospital-wide visitation restrictions may be implemented in times of increased incidence of communicable disease in the community, under recommendation but not limited to local, state, and federal health departments,

4. Public Health Incidents

The hospital may limit visitation in the event of a public health crisis or widespread illness at any time. Under such circumstances, the Infection Control Committee determines if a public health crisis is occurring and decides when to initiate and discontinue changes to the visitation policy:

a. Obstetric Visitation:

- 1) Is limited to spouse, significant other, or support person of patient.
 - 2) Minors, including siblings, of the newborn are not allowed to visit.
- b. Other infection control measures may be instituted as necessary to maintain the safety and health of patients, visitors, and staff.

5. Treatments and Procedures (Inpatient and Outpatient)

- a. Hospital staff members may ask visitors to leave the patient room during physician/nurse rounding, in-room procedures requiring confidentiality or privacy for the patient (or roommate, if applicable), or during emergency situations provisionally wait in another room or area.
- b. If a patient is scheduled for an outpatient procedure, test or class and is accompanied by a minor, the staff may ask the patient to reschedule for a time when they are able to arrange childcare.

6. Special Considerations

Certain Patient Care Areas Have Special Considerations Related to Visitation

- a. **Psychiatric Unit** (See Nursing Policy #08-630-33). Call the psychiatric unit at ext. 3817 for further directions or guidance.
- b. **Operating Room and Recovery Room** (See OR Policy #08-661-16, Observation in Operating Room, Outpatient Surgery and PACU)
 - 1) Visitors are permitted in the pre-post endoscopy, Phase II, and pre-operative areas.
 - 2) Phase I PACU limits the number of visitors. Phase I PACU visiting is at the clinical judgement of nursing staff.
- c. **Intermediate Care Nursery**
 - 1) A total of two (2) adult visitors at a time may visit the infant.
 - 2) Children, including siblings, under the age of 18 are not allowed to visit.
- d. **Family Birthing Center**
 - 1) In the Labor and Delivery Unit, visitation is limited to two (2) support persons. Whenever possible, these individuals are consistent. In addition to the two support people, a Doula with proof of training or certification may also be present for labor and delivery and recovery period.
 - 2) In the Mother-Baby Unit, three (3) visitors (including the mother's support person) may visit at a time. If the newborn has more than two siblings, exceptions may be accommodated by the nurse.
 - 3) No children under the age of 18 are allowed to stay overnight during the patient's postpartum period.
- e. **Intensive Care Unit**
 - 1) No children under the age of 12 are permitted unless deemed appropriate by clinical staff in which case they must be accompanied by an adult.
 - 2) The ICU follows the hospital guidelines as to visitation. This may be changed as deemed appropriate by clinical staff.

7. Minors Accompanying Patient(s) in Outpatient Area(s)

- a. Access Services staff informs patients that childcare is not available at Swedish Hospital, and advises that patients not bring children with to their appointment. Additionally, the patient is told that if a patient undergoing such a procedure is accompanied by a minor, staff may ask the patient to reschedule the procedure for a time when they are able to arrange childcare.
- b. If a patient is scheduled for an outpatient procedure/test/class such as, EKGs, Monitoring device, Laboratory testing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Diabetes Education, Respiratory Services, etc., and is accompanied by a minor, staff may ask the patient to reschedule for a time when they are able to arrange childcare.

- c. For the health and safety of all patients, visitors, and staff members, minors must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times. Minors are not permitted in treatment areas during procedures requiring the use of radioactive substances such as X-Rays, Nuclear Medicine, CAT Scans, MRIs, etc. If a patient undergoing such a procedure is accompanied by a minor, staff may ask the patient to reschedule the procedure for a time when they are able to arrange childcare.
- d. If an event or issue is occurring that falls outside the scope of this policy, staff should alert the department manager.

8. Patient Visitation Restrictions

- a. Visitation is restricted/limited based on the clinical judgment of health care professionals.
- b. Visitation restrictions may be requested by:
 - 1) Patient
 - 2) Patient's Power of Attorney
 - 3) Relative
 - 4) Physician
 - 5) SW Administration
 - 6) Nursing Supervisor
 - 7) Public Safety Supervisor
 - 8) Relative if the patient is not decisional.

c. Lobby Services

Checks all visitors at the information check point and may request identification.

d. Public Safety

- 1) Patient Visitation Restriction forms are updated daily to reflect room changes.
- 2) In the event of a complication or incident, a GENERAL INCIDENT REPORT is completed.

NOTE: If an individual is not allowed to visit the patient and is found on campus, notify Public Safety at extension 1166 immediately.

REFERENCES

Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (2020). Patient Rights & Use of Restraints. Chapter 15. HFAP Accreditation requirements for acute care hospitals, Chicago.

Chicago Public Health Department

<https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph.html>.

42 CFR 482.13(a) and (b), and new 42 CFR 482.13(h)

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 issued by the Department of Health and Human Services - "Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance Recipients Regarding Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination Affecting Limited English Proficient Persons" (August 8, 2003, 68 FR 47311).