



Health Network Visitation

January 10, 2024

For the health and safety of our patients, visitors and staff, we ask that you abide by the following guidelines when visiting patients in the hospital:

System-wide General Guidelines

- Visitors shall comply with WV State Health Code and wear proper attire while in the hospital (e.g. shoes, shirt), as well as requirements for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (e.g. masks) when deemed necessary.
- Visitors should wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or apply hand sanitizer upon entry and departure from patient rooms and the facility.
- Visitors may be asked to leave the room or denied access:
 - During treatments, procedures, or examinations
 - If visitor behavior becomes disruptive or violent
 - If protected health information is to be discussed
 - If the care team deems it to be in the best interest of the patient
 - In the event of a public health event in accordance with state and federal requirements
 - At the request of the patient
- Visitors who are ill should not visit any patients in the hospital. If you are experiencing any symptoms of infectious diseases, such as a fever, cough, body aches, sore throat, etc. you should refrain from visiting.
- Children under 12 years old are not permitted to visit unless special circumstances exist and an exception is granted. Visitors age 12-17 years old must be accompanied by an adult at all times. See Labor & Delivery and Mother Baby Unit section for information on sibling visitation to those areas.
- Visitors should refrain from smoking, vaping, or using smokeless tobacco in or on hospital property.
- Visitors should refrain from bringing food or drink into patient care areas.
- To access restrooms, visitors should use the public restrooms within the facility/department they are visiting.
- Additional restrictions may apply in semi-private rooms for privacy or infection control purposes.
- Sleeping is not permitted in any of the lobby or common areas. Overnight visitors must be 18 years or older and should remain in the patient room during their visit and refrain from visiting other areas of the facility unnecessarily. Overnight visitation is from 8 p.m.-8 a.m.; no swapping out of visitors is permitted during these times.
- Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for extenuating circumstances, such as end of life or other situations requiring compassionate accommodations.

Adult Medical-Surgical, Stepdown, ICUs and Open Heart Recovery

- Adult Medical-Surgical, Stepdown and ICU patients may have two visitors at a time between the hours of 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and one overnight visitor between the hours of 8 p.m. – 8 a.m.
- Open Heart Recovery patients may have two visitors per day during the following hours: 10 – 10:30 a.m., 2 – 2:30 p.m., 8 – 8:30 p.m. The two visitors must be the same throughout the day.

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Emergency Department

- ER patients may have two visitors accompany them during their ER visit. In some circumstances, visitors of adult patients may be asked to rotate between the patient bedside and the lobby area.

Labor & Delivery and Mother Baby Unit

- Labor & Delivery patients may have four designated visitors for the entirety of their stay. Two of the four visitors may visit at the same time. Siblings (of the baby) may also visit between the hours of 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and do not count as a designated visitor.
- Mother Baby Unit patients may have two visitors at a time between the hours of 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and one overnight visitor between the hours of 8 p.m.-8 a.m. Siblings (of the baby) may also visit between the hours of 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and do not count as a visitor.

Outpatient/Ambulatory Surgery or Testing

- Adult patients having an outpatient procedure or test may have one visitor accompany them to lobby.
- Pediatric patients having an outpatient procedure or test may have two visitors accompany them to the lobby.
- These visitors may be present during pre-op and post-operative discharge instructions and must be age 18+ years old.

Skilled Nursing and Behavioral Health

- SMMC has no restrictions to visitation per CMS requirements.
- Behavioral Health patients may have one visitor over the age of 18 visit between the hours of 6-7 p.m.

Pediatrics, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Neonatal Intensive Care and Therapeutic Units

- Pediatrics and PICU patients may have up to four designated visitors for the duration of their stay. Two of these four visitors may be at the bedside at a time. Two parents/guardians may spend the night between the hours of 8 p.m. – 8 a.m.
- NICU patients may have up to four designated visitors for the duration of their stay in addition to up to two parents/guardians. Two of these four designated visitors may be at the bedside at a time in the presence of a parent/guardian. Two parents/guardians may spend the night between the hours of 8 p.m. – 8 a.m.
- NTU patients may have two visitors at a time between the hours of 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. One of these visitors must be a parent/guardian and must be present for an additional visitor to be permitted.

Clergy

- Patients may have clergy visits between the hours of 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., unless end-of-life or religious requirements exist that cannot be honored by in-house pastoral/spiritual care. Clergy do not count as a visitor, but all visits should be brief in nature and, when needed, can be coordinated with Pastoral/Spiritual Care.
- Outside clergy intending to visit with a patient admitted to a MHN facility must obtain a clergy ID badge.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

