

PURPOSE:

To facilitate appropriate visitation and to assure the safety of our patients and staff as well as to provide a quiet, restful, healing environment for our patients.

POLICY:

Staff shall encourage visitors at Little Colorado Medical Center to assist in the health promotion and healing process of our patients. Staff will educate visitors about the Hospital Visitor Policy and will monitor compliance of this policy. Changes in the patient's condition may necessitate modification of these regulations upon the request of the physician or discretion of the House Supervisor or Charge Nurse.

Visitation Guidelines:

A. General Guidelines (During Normal Hours of Operation)

I. Staff Expectations:

All LCMC staff will be expected to be knowledgeable of the Hospital Visitor Policy. The staff nurse assigned to the patient will be responsible for educating patient, families, and visitors of the Hospital Visitor Policy and monitoring that after hours visitor procedures are followed. Staff encountering noncompliant visitors, should call 911 for assistance.

II. Visitor Expectations:

Visits to a family member or friend in the hospital should be beneficial for both the patient and visitor. Ideally, staff, physicians, patients, and visitors should discuss whether or not the visit is therapeutic and/or desired; or if it places patients or visitors at risk for exposure to infectious diseases or unpleasant situations.

The following expectations should be communicated to visitors by LCMC staff:

1. Visitors who have experienced a fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, skin rash, vomiting or diarrhea in the last 48 hours before a visit is planned should be discouraged from visiting until certain they will not expose the patient to more risk of disease.
2. Visitors who are disruptive or disturb patients, staff, or other visitors will be asked to stop the disruptive behavior or be escorted from the premises by Law Enforcement.
3. Visitors may be asked to leave if the patient's condition requires immediate attention.
4. Visitors should make plans to visit during posted visiting hours and limit the number of visitors to only two in a patient's room at any given time to allow the

patient to rest.

5. Visitors will make provisions for their own meals; they are welcome to dine in our cafeteria. Visitors should not bring food into patient rooms.

6. Individuals who are visiting from out of town will need to make provisions for their own lodging.

III. Visiting Hours:

Medical/Surgical Units—Regular visiting hours for the hospital are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Patients may have one designated visitor at all times with the approval of the nurse and/or physician.

Pediatrics—Parents or a family designated representative are encouraged to stay with children under the age of 12 at all times.

Obstetrics—Two (2) visitors per patient are allowed at one time. Fathers may visit at any time at the discretion of the physician. Siblings may visit when accompanied by an adult.

Emergency Room—Patients may have two (2) visitors with the approval of the nurse and/or physician if no treatment is in progress. Parents will be asked to remain with a child. Visiting hours may be suspended for critical situations in the Emergency Department.

IV. Limitations:

Normally, patient visitation will be limited to two (2) visitors at any one time except in circumstances when more visitors are deemed necessary for the patient's welfare. The staff nurse or physician will grant such privileges.

V. Children Visitation:

Patient visitation by children is welcome provided it is beneficial to the patient and/or children. RSV restrictions may be in place and children under the age of thirteen (13) will not be allowed when restrictions are in effect. Labor and Delivery area of the hospital are to be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult at all times and the following must be evaluated:

The parent or responsible adult should consider the emotional health of the child since seeing a loved one who is seriously ill and/or on supportive equipment may be very traumatic for a child.

Visiting children must leave the hospital by 8 p.m. The adult(s) responsible for the children needs to be informed of and support the following responsibilities: Children need to stay in the room of the patient they are visiting so other patients on the unit can rest without disruption.

Children's behavior is monitored and controlled by the responsible adult at all times during the visit.

If the children visiting are disruptive to other patients or visitors, then the responsible adult will be asked to correct the situation or the children's visit will be terminated.

VI. After Hours Visitor Policy (8 pm-8 am)

By 7:30 p.m. visitors electing to stay after 8 p.m. will be required to obtain authorization from the staff nurse assigned to the patient. There is a limit of one visitor per patient. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances by the Charge Nurse or House Supervisor.

VII. After Hours Access to the Hospital:

For safety and security reasons, any visitor entering after 8 p.m. must enter through the Emergency Department (ED) entrance, visitors must check in with the nurse in charge.