

PURPOSE

To establish provisions for caregiver involvement in the rehabilitative plan of care for patients while maintaining patient and personnel safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

POLICY

It is the policy of Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals that during the COVID-19 pandemic, caregiver visitation will be modified in order to maximize effective rehabilitative care for patients while balancing patient and personnel safety. The caregiver visitation system will depend on the presence of COVID-19 in the community and the implementation of restrictive procedures at the institutional and county level.

PROCEDURE

General Principles:

- Caregiver visitation modification is necessary as long as COVID-19 is present and circulating in the community and **ideally, visitors should be restricted as much as possible.**
- Because a proportion of transmission of COVID-19 is from persons who are pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic, screening visitors for symptoms will not prevent all persons with COVID-19 from entering the facility.
- Caregiver visitation is important for the psycho-social health as well as safe and appropriate rehabilitative care of inpatients, but must be balanced against the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to inpatients and healthcare workers.
- Caregiver visitation is limited to those persons essential for the patient's physical or emotional well-being and care.
- Alternative mechanisms for patient and visitor interactions, such as Zoom calls on cell phones or tablets, are strongly encouraged in lieu of in-person caregiver visitation.
- **Caregiver visitors are only allowed to visit a single patient room. They should not go to other locations in the facility. Patients must also wear a mask while visitors are in their room.**
- **Caregiver visitors must comply with all precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19 (general masking policy, hand hygiene, etc.) or they will be asked to leave the facility.**

Expectation of Caregiver Visitors:

- Caregiver visitors will comply with all instructions from health care personnel.
- Caregiver visitors will not be allowed to visit the hospital if they are ill.
- Caregiver visitors will be screened for illness at the main entrance at the time of each visit.
- Caregiver visitors must comply with all precautions to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, which includes **wearing a mask at all times while on the property.** Caregiver visitors who do not comply with these requirements will be asked to leave the facility for the day.
 - Being asked to leave the facility for failure to comply with masking requirements two times will result in permanent removal from the hospital for the rest of the patient's stay.
- If privacy is required during patient cares, the caregiver visitor will wait on the other side of the privacy curtain.
- The designated caregiver visitor should serve as a spokesperson to other family members and facilitate communication between the patient's providers and the family.

- Once visiting hours are over, caregiver visitors must leave the building wearing a mask the entire time.

Caregiver Visitation Procedures:

- The patient or authorized representative will designate **ONE primary caregiver visitor (age 19 or older) and ONE alternate** that will serve in the caregiver visitor role throughout the duration of hospitalization.
 - Only ONE caregiver visitor is allowed on site per day.
 - The first caregiver visitor to arrive is the one that will be allowed for the day.
- Designated caregiver visitors should report to the screening station at the main entrance upon entering the hospital.
- Personnel will screen the caregiver visitor for signs and symptoms of infection which will include a temperature check.
 - Persons with fevers of 100 F or greater, symptoms of illness, those with an exposure or a pending COVID test will not be allowed entry.
- Upon a successful screen, caregiver visitors will be given a dated sticker to wear that designates them as an approved visitor for that date only.
- **Approved caregiver visitors will directly report to the specific patient care unit housing the designated patient. Caregiver visitors should not loiter in other areas of the hospital.** At the conclusion of visitation, the caregiver visitor should promptly leave the facility.
 - Individuals involved in caregiver training to prepare for patient discharge, may in certain limited circumstances accompany the patient and a staff member to a specified training location.
 - Training may occur outside the room if the caregiver is actively involved in a hands-on training session and the skills being trained cannot be accomplished in room.
 - Caregivers must return to the room immediately upon completion of the hands-on training session and **may not accompany the patient to therapies merely to observe.**
- Duration of **visitation beginning March 19, 2021 is limited to the hours between 9-11 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. daily** for adult patients. One caregiver visitor for pediatric patients is allowed on site at all times.