INTERIM RESIDENT VISITATION POLICY

Policy#: IC- B18  Date Approved: August 21, 2020
Replaces Policy Dated: New

POLICY:

This policy temporarily replaces RI 44 A

Visitation of family members and or caregivers will be limited to no more than four hours per day per resident, between 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM and 4 PM - 6 PM. Up to two visitors allowed per resident at any one time. Visitors between the ages of 14 - 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. The visitation hours are for both weekdays and weekends with no exceptions, and no more than 10% of the residents shall have visitors at any one time. In order to accommodate multiple family visitors, the visitation is limited to 1-hour session.

There will be no visitation in units under quarantine for COVID-19 exposure, or in any designated cohort areas elsewhere within the facility.

Adequate staff must be present to allow for personnel to help with the transition of residents, monitoring of visitation, and cleaning and disinfecting areas used for visitation after each visiting using an EPA-approved disinfectant.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to the Nursing Facility.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of Hospital Police, Front Desk staff, Nursing, Resident Care Unit staff to ensure compliance with this policy.

PROCEDURE:

1. Upon entry into the facility, the visitor reports to the Front Desk, signs in and is issued a pass by Hospital Police.
2. As required by the Department of Health, visitors must provide their full name, address, and telephone information. The facility is required to maintain an electronic file with the name of the visitors, time and date of visit and their contact information.
3. Visitors are required to perform proper hand sanitizing techniques. Hospital Police will provide them with a mask that must be worn during the entire visit.
4. Visitors will be subject to symptom and temperature checks upon entering the facility. Visitors will be denied entry if they report significant COVID-19 exposure or symptoms during the prior 14 days or have a temperature over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

5. Visitors are strongly discouraged from visiting residents who are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19. This includes residents who are older adults or with an underlying medical condition.

6. Visitation in resident rooms or care areas is to be avoided unless the resident’s medical condition prevents them from leaving the room. **All out of room visit will take place in the unit dining area.**

7. Visitation will be held in the dining areas for those residents that are able to get out of bed. Visitor must be 6 feet apart and no more than 2 visitors will be allowed at any one time.

8. If visitation must occur within the resident’s room because of medical status:
   - Unit Nursing staff may ask visitors to wait or be declined visitation, in the two bedded rooms, in order to maintain proper social distancing from other visitors and residents already in the room (i.e. roommate already has a visiting family member).
   - Before entering the resident’s room, Infection Control or unit Nursing staff will provide visitors with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which must be worn as recommended by the CDC and the New York State Department of Health. They must also perform proper hand hygiene.
   - When bedside care is being provided, no visitors will be allowed in the room and must wait outside in the common area.
   - **Visitors are not permitted to bring food or drinks into the building.**
   - **Boxes and packages are not permitted in the building.**

9. Visitors are expected to comply with standing Infection Control requirements for face mask and hand hygiene, as well as any specific precautions for the resident they may be visiting (as directed by unit staff). Visitors who fail to comply with these conditions of visitation will be asked to leave the facility immediately.

10. Based on what we know now, those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:
   - People 65 years and older
   - People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
   - People of all ages with **underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled**, including:
     - People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
   - People who have serious heart conditions
   - People who are immunocompromised
     - Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
   - People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
   - People with diabetes
• People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
• People with liver disease

11. As alternatives to visiting, family/caregivers can continue to engage in virtual calls.

12. Visitation from representatives from the long-term care ombudsman program and resident advocacy organizations, will be permitted to visit the resident as needed.

Handouts will be distributed by screening staff that will provide visitors with information from CDC on the following:

• How to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID 19.
• How to perform proper hand hygiene
• Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which includes mask, gloves, gowns, and shields.
• How to follow proper respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette (e.g., covering mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing or sneezing) in the event an individual develops respiratory symptoms while visiting the facility.
• Maintain social distancing during the visits.

Health care providers should thoroughly discuss the potential risks and benefits of the visitor’s presence at the bedside with both the visitor and resident, if possible.

13. Residents with COVID 19 or on precautions for COVID 19 will not be allowed visitation.

Front desk staff will remind visitors on the visitation guidelines.

Monitoring of Visitation Policy

An interdisciplinary team must be created by the facility to review visitation program compliance with this Health Advisory (Department of Health)

References:

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Approved: Floyd R. Long  
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Date: 8/21/20

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