

**NOVANT HEALTH UVA HEALTH SYSTEM
CULPEPER MEDICAL CENTER
HOSPITAL WIDE POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

Policy: Visitor Policy

Policy:

The purpose of this policy is to assure the safety of our patients and staff as well as to provide a quiet, restful, and healing environment for our patients. Patient requests regarding visitation will be honored as much as is therapeutically and safely possible. Staff will be expected to encourage visitation to assist in the health promotion and healing process of our patients. The patient will have the right to request visitation and withdraw visitation at any time. The hospital will not deny an individual visitation based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, general identity or disability. Circumstances may be warranted to deny visitation based on the patient's medical needs or safety. These exceptions will be communicated to the patient. Best judgment will be exercised in emergencies and for pediatric and critically ill patients or when a patient's pastor has been requested to visit the patient by the patient or family.

COVID-19 PROCESS:

Culpeper Medical Center regularly reviews guidance from the CDC and VDH during the COVID-19 pandemic regarding visitation. This policy is subject to change based on those guidelines and as required for patient and team member safety, and will be communicated to team members in real time as warranted. For current visitation guidelines, visit the UVA Community Health, Inc. internet page <https://www.novanthealthuva.org/about-us/newsroom/press-releases/newsid71695/2521/uva-health-community-medical-centers-restrict-visitation-.aspx>. If you have any questions about patient visitation, please refer to your manager, director, Nursing Supervisor or Administrator on Call.

In accordance with HB2162 legislation, a patient who is a person with a disability has the right to identify a "designated support person" to accompany the patient during an admission.

- If care lasts longer than 24 hours, the patient may designate more than one designated support person.
- The hospital will inform patients, at the time of admission, of the right of a person with a disability to be accompanied by a designated support person.
- Written information regarding the right of a person with a disability to be accompanied by a designated support person and related policies are available upon request of the patient.
- This written information is available to the public on the hospital website.

A "**designated support person**" is defined as a person who is 18 years of age or older; knowledgeable about the needs of a person with a disability; and designated, orally or in

writing, by the person with a disability or his guardian, authorized representative, or care provider to provide support and assistance necessary due to the specifics of the person's disability to the person with a disability at any time during which health care services are provided.

“Person with a disability” is defined as a person who, prior to admission to a medical care facility, had a physical, sensory, mental, or emotional impairment that substantially limits one or more activities of daily living or has a record of such impairment. The hospital may request that a person with a disability provide documentation indicating that he is a person with a disability, and if the person is unable to do so, the medical care facility may perform an objective assessment of the person to determine whether he is a person with a disability.

“Support and assistance necessary due to the specifics of the person's disability” means support and assistance, including assistance with activities of daily living, communication, decision-making, and other supports, that is (i) necessary due to the absence, loss, diminution, or impairment of a physical, sensory, behavioral, cognitive, or emotional function of the person due to the specifics of his disability; (ii) provided by a designated support person; (iii) ongoing; and (iv) necessary for the care of, and to afford meaningful access to health care for, the person with a disability.

Designated support persons are not visitors and cannot be denied access to the medical care facility. However, the hospital may implement reasonable requirements, including but not limited to screening protocols in place at the time of admission, use of personal protective equipment, and adherence to infection prevention and control standards, that protect the health and safety of others or deny access to specified areas when reasonably necessary to protect the health and safety of others.

Procedure:

Specific recommended visiting guidelines may apply to maximize patient and staff safety and for the benefit of the healing process for the patient. The hospital and medical staff may make modifications based on the best interest of the patient.

The patient will be advised upon admission of their right to choose who may visit them as well as their right to withdraw such consent to visitation at any time. The patient will also be advised when circumstances warrant denial of visitation based on the patient's medical needs or safety.

1. Recommended Visitation hours are 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Exceptions will be based on the patient request, patient and staff safety. Visitors entering the building through the main entrance of the hospital or through the Emergency Department Atrium will be provided a Visitor Badge and wristband at the Public Safety Podium.

After Hours Procedures

- All Visitors should enter through the Emergency Room atrium and stop at the

Security Podium and provide the Patients name and unit they wish to visit. Public Safety will then contact the unit Charge Nurse for permission.

- When approved by nursing, Public Safety will provide a Visitor Badge and wristband and escort the visitor to the unit.
 - The nursing unit will notify the nursing supervisor that an after hour visitor is present.
2. Visitation is recommended to be limited to two (2) people at any one time. Exceptions will be made based on the health and safety of the patient and staff.
 3. Visitors observed to have demonstrated any signs or symptoms of a communicable illness will be asked to either wear protective attire (mask, gowns) or be asked to leave until they are clear of any potential illness that may affect the patient.
 4. A parent or adult responsible for the child should accompany children under the age of twelve (12).
 5. Visitors who are disruptive or disturb patients, staff or other visitors will be asked to stop the disruptive behavior and may be asked to leave. Public Safety should be contacted to provide guidance and escort services.
 6. Visitors are requested to be respectful Culpeper Medical Center's "No Smoking" policy at all times.

Infection Prevention & Control

1. Staff will monitor isolation patients and assist visitors in isolation procedures
2. 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 they are certain they will not expose the patient to more risk of disease.

Family Birth Center

1. All visitors will check in at the nurse's station prior to admittance to the secured Family Birth Center patient care area. Designated support person will be identified with a Public Safety bracelet, which will be supplied by Family Birth Center staff. This bracelet will be worn at all times.

CCU

1. Visitation is requested to be limited during recognized "Quiet time" periods on the unit, which is established to promote the healing process for the patient.

The 1/11 revision consolidated policies Hospital Wide Manual (231), Infection Prevention & Control (#35), CCU (Operational II-10) and Family Birth Center (#V-2) policies

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*01/12/2022: updated COVID-19 section to refer to guidance on UVA CH intranet