

LEE HEALTH SKILLED NURSING SERVICES POLICY & PROCEDURES

VISITATION			LOCATOR NUMBER																					
T Y P E	<input type="checkbox"/> System-wide - A formal statement of values, intents (policy), and expectations (procedure) that applies to every employee throughout the System.	<u>SKILLED NURSING</u>																						
	<input type="checkbox"/> Multidisciplinary - A formal statement of values, intents (policy), and expectations (procedure) that applies to more than one discipline and is usually of a clinical nature. Check below all areas to which this applies.	CHAPTER: SN01																						
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Departmental - A formal statement of values, intents (policy), and expectations (procedure) exclusive to a particular department or group of people within a department at one or multiple locations that does not impact any other area.	TAB: 00																						
POLICY #: 214																								
Disciplines / locations to which this multidisciplinary policy applies:																								
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Health Information Management</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Acute Care Hospital Nursing</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Services</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Plant Operations</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Outpatient Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Information Systems</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Radiology</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Home Health</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation Services</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Legal Services</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Physician Offices</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Security</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Rehab Hospital</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Other</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> Health Information Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Acute Care Hospital Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Outpatient Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Information Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Radiology	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Physician Offices	<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehab Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Information Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Acute Care Hospital Nursing																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Operations	<input type="checkbox"/> Outpatient Services																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Radiology	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Health																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skilled Nursing Services																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Respiratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Physician Offices																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Rehab Hospital																						
<input type="checkbox"/> Other																								
Date Originated: 12/16	Reviewed / No Revision:	Dates Revised: 9/18, 5/19, 3/20, 9/20, 10/20, 3/21, 6/21, 11/21, 4/22, 10/22	Next Review Date: 10/23																					
Author(s): Leslie Vollmer, NHA																								
Approved by																								
Policy Administrator:	Leslie Vollmer, NHA	Date:	10/12/2022																					
As Needed:																								
Medical Directors:	James Gifford, MD/Knisha Williams MD/Eric Reyes-Grajales MD	Date:	10/2022																					

PURPOSE:

In an effort to provide and maintain a safe and secure environment for residents/patients, employees and visitors, the following guidelines have been established.

Visitation of patients by family and friends can be an important element in the therapeutic plan of care and is strongly supported by Lee Health, unless otherwise requested or specified by the patient, or family. Lee Health will not restrict, limit or otherwise deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

There are, however, certain clinically reasonable instances in which restrictions or limitations on visitors may be imposed. This may occur if, in the best clinical judgment of the care team and in consideration of all aspects of patient/residents health and safety, restrictions or limitations are

warranted. While it is not possible to enumerate every instance in which visitor restrictions may be imposed, in general, these instances may include: (I) When there may be infection prevention and control issues; (II) When the patient/resident is undergoing care interventions or when visitation may interfere with the care of other patient/residents; and (III) When restrictions are warranted due to security, patient/residents confidentiality or emergency management considerations.

Visitors will enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient/residents preferences providing that staff has not implemented restrictions or limitations for clinical reasons. This policy establishes general guidelines that must be followed in order to meet the needs of our patient/residents and ensure the safety and confidentiality of patient/residents.

When a patient/resident is incapacitated the patient/resident may use their advance directive to designate a "support person" as that term is used in §482.13(h) for the purposes of exercising their visitation rights on their behalf when they are unable to do so. When a patient/resident is incapacitated and there is no advance Directive on file and no one has presented an Advance Directive designating himself or herself as the patient/residents representative but an individual asserts that he or she, as the patient/residents spouse, domestic partner (including same sex partner), parent or other family member, friend or otherwise, is the patient/residents support person, the hospital is expected to accept this assertion without demanding supporting documentation.

Even in times when it is necessary to restrict visitation, a patient/resident may be allowed a two hour daily in person visit with an individual who is a family member, friend, guardian or other individual as an essential caregiver. In person visitation may be suspended if a visitor violates the policies and procedures of the facility.

In person visitation must be allowed in all of the following circumstances:

- End of life situations
- Patient/resident is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in person family support
- Patient/resident is making one or more major medical decisions
- Patient/resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died
- Patient/resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver
- Patient/resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking

Unit or Department Director or their designee will be responsible for staff adherence to the visitation policy.

Visitors will not be compelled to show or provide proof of vaccination or immunization.

DEFINITION: Immediate Family Members may be a spouse, domestic partner, siblings or children and parents.

POLICY:

Visitors and employees shall adhere to the Visitation policy as outlined in the procedure below.

PROCEDURE:

The October 22, 2020 Florida Division of Emergency Management emergency order permits visitation at all skilled nursing facilities in the state. The CMS QSO-20-39-NH revised 09/23/22 provides updated guidance for visitation in nursing homes during the COVID-19 PHE, including the impact of COVID-19 vaccination.

Skilled Nursing facilities recognize Florida Chapter 2022-34, SB 988 permits residents/clients/patients may designate a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver, at any time. There are no provisions for this designation to actually be required to provide care, as stated in SB 988.

- A. Visits are allowed at all times in accordance with CMS regulations.
- B. Visitors who enter must follow PPE requirements set by Lee Health policy, CMS, and CDC guidelines:
 - 1. Visitors will be provided visual aids regarding infection prevention and control education including proper CMS stated "Core Principles of Covid-19 Infection Prevention," PPE and mask use, hand hygiene, and social distancing.
 - 2. Hand hygiene must be performed upon entering the facility.
 - 3. Staff will alert visitors if additional PPE is required.
- C. Representatives of the federal or state government seeking entry as part of their official duties, including but not limited to Long Term Care Ombudsman program, representatives of the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Office of the Attorney General, any law enforcement officer and any emergency medical personnel are allowed following preceding guidelines
- D. Visitors must immediately inform the facility if they develop a fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 within fourteen (14) days of a visit to the facility.

General Visitor Additional Guidelines

- A. Outdoor visits are preferred and recommended, during substantial to high community transmission of Covid-19.
- B. Additional education will be provided to visitors in the event an outbreak occurs. Visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation and adhere to the core principles of infection prevention.
- C. For situations where there is a roommate and the health status of the patient/resident prevents leaving the room, facility should attempt to enable in-room visitation while adhering to the core principles of infection prevention.

General for All locations:

- A. Facility shall provide instructional signage throughout facility.
- B. Facility shall maintain a visitor log for signing in and out.
- C. After attempts to mitigate concerns, facility shall restrict or revoke visitation if the visitor fails to follow infection prevention and control requirements or other COVID-19 related rules of the facility.
- D. Facility shall maintain hand hygiene supplies.
- E. Facility will not limit the frequency and length of visits for patients/residents, the number of visitors, or require advance scheduling of visits.
- F. For outdoor visits, facilities should create accessible and safe outdoor spaces for visitation, such as in courtyards, patios, or parking lots. When conducting outdoor visitation, appropriate infection control and prevention practices should be adhered to.
- G. During peak times of visitation and large gatherings (e.g., parties, events), facilities should encourage physical distancing.
- H. Residents/patients may choose to have physical touch based on their preferences and needs, such as with support persons for individuals with disabilities and visitors participating in certain religious practices, including in end-of-life situations. Visitors should physically distance from other residents/patients and staff in the facility.
- I. Based on community level of COVID-19 transmission, the facility is encouraging visitors to test at their own discretion prior to visitation.
- J. The resident/patient has a right to receive visitors of his or her choosing at the time of his or her choosing, subject to the resident's/patient's right to deny visitation when applicable, and in a manner that does not impose on the rights of another resident/patient.
- K. Face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unable to wear a mask due to a disability, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- L. All non-public doors shall be secured in order to provide a safe and therapeutic environment.
- M. Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and illegal substances are prohibited on Lee Health property. Anyone found in violation of this will be asked to leave the premises immediately. The facility can deny access or provide supervised visitation to individuals who have a history of bringing illegal substances into the facility which places patient/residents' health and safety at risk.

Visitors are prohibited from bringing a firearm, explosive or incendiary device or other weapon into the facility. Any person observing the possession, display, storage, keeping or carrying of any firearm, explosive or incendiary device or other weapon on System

property, or having reasonable suspicion of the same shall immediately report the same to Security. Firearms or weapons observed to be located in locked motor vehicles need not be reported.

N. Hospital Security will be called if any security or safety issues arise from visitation

RELATED POLICIES:

S08 05 876 Tobacco-Free Environment

S08 07 273 Firearms

REFERENCES:

Florida Chapter 2022-34

QSO-20-39-NH *REVISED 09/23/22*

Skilled Nursing Visitor Screening Form