

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Policy # AHC 0032 | Policy Name CW AHC 0032 Visitation Guidelines - AdventHealth-Florida |
| Policy Location *Company-Wide Policies | Responsible Department Clinical Effect/Corp Oversight |
| Policy Owner or Executive Owner Kim Kelly (CE-VP Nursing Corporate) | Original Creation Date 05/04/2022 |
| Policy Effective Date 05/05/2022 | Policy Review Date 05/05/2022 |

I. SCOPE: This policy is applicable for patients and residents at AdventHealth Facilities in Florida.

II. PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to further define and support a patient's and resident's right to visitation and to establish the right to an essential caregiver.

III. POLICY:

A. General Policy Guidelines

1. AdventHealth recognizes the importance of the healing presence and emotional support of a patient's or resident's loved ones and strives to ensure visitation by family and friends to assist in providing whole person care while ensuring patient and resident safety.
2. Each patient or resident and/or their Legally Authorized Person(s) has the right to consent, withdraw consent or decline visitors.
3. Visitation privileges shall not be restricted, limited or otherwise denied on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.
4. AdventHealth will ensure that all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient or resident preferences.
5. Unit/department leadership is responsible to ensure this policy is followed.
6. This policy supersedes any inconsistent visitation policies and procedures and/or the applicable portions thereof for these Facilities in the state of Florida.

B. Patient Visitation Rights

1. The patient or resident has the right to receive visitors he or she permits, including, but not limited to a spouse (including a same-sex spouse), domestic partner (including a same-sex domestic partner), family member or friend.
2. A patient has the right to bring any visitors of his or her choosing to the patient-accessible areas of the healthcare facility to accompany the patient while receiving inpatient or outpatient treatment or is consulting with the patient's healthcare

The electronic version of this policy is considered to be the controlled version. Printed copies are considered uncontrolled documents. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the current version

- provider, unless doing so would risk the safety or health of the patient, other patients, or facility staff or cannot be reasonably accommodated by the facility.
3. A resident has the right to receive visitors of his or her choosing at the time of his or her choosing, subject to the resident's right to deny visitation when applicable and in a manner that does not impose on the rights of another resident.
 4. Notwithstanding the foregoing and subject to a patient's or resident's right to consent, withdraw consent or decline, in-person visitation is allowed in the following circumstances:
 - a. End of life situations
 - b. Patient who was living with family before being admitted to the hospital is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support
 - c. Patient is making one or more major medical decisions
 - d. Patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died
 - e. Patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver
 - f. Patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking
 - g. Childbirth, including labor and delivery
 - h. Pediatric patients
 5. Consensual physical contact between a patient or resident and a visitor is permissible.

C. Essential Caregiver

1. The patient or resident may designate a family member, friend, guardian or other individual as an "essential caregiver". For residents, the essential caregiver may be the resident representative or may be another individual of the resident's choice.
2. The patient or resident must tell the Facility who they have chosen as their essential caregiver.
3. The essential caregiver shall have in-person visitation privileges for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation permitted by the Facility and/or this policy, whichever is greater.
4. The Facility may not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a patient or resident.

D. Minor Visitors

1. Minor visitors under 12 years of age shall be accompanied and supervised by an adult other than the patient or resident at all times.

E. Screening/Infection Prevention/PPE

1. The Facility must screen all visitors for COVID-19 symptoms, infection or exposure before entry to the Facility. This screening may include temperature checks, completion of attestation forms and/or answering a series of questions.

Note: Proof of vaccination or immunization status will not be required.

The electronic version of this policy is considered to be the controlled version. Printed copies are considered uncontrolled documents. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the current version

2. Any visitors who do not pass this screening will be offered an opportunity to visit the patient or resident virtually where available.
3. All visitors must wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), which at a minimum is a face mask. All visitors and children over age 2 will be provided a face mask for their use.
4. Additional PPE may be required as clinically indicated. The Facility will provide education to the visitor(s) about the additional PPE required at the time of visitation.
5. Visitor PPE requirements will be consistent with Facility staff members' PPE requirements. However, fit testing of N95 masks for visitors is not required.
6. The Facility must ensure supplies (tissues, waste receptacles, alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and facemasks) are available at all entry points at both acute care and ambulatory locations.
7. The Facility must place signage at all entrances and in strategic locations providing instruction on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. Only AdventHealth approved signage should be utilized. (Refer to [Brand Center](#)).

F. Visitor Responsibilities

1. The visitor is responsible for being respectful and considerate of the rights and needs of other patients, residents and healthcare workers.
2. The visitor is responsible for being sensitive to noise level, number of visitors and the Facility's smoke free environment.
3. The visitor is responsible for following this policy and other Facility's policies and procedures the visitor is made aware of.

G. Visitation Limitations

1. A visitor's in-person visitation privileges may be suspended if the visitor violates this policy or the Facility's policies and procedures that the visitor is made aware of.
2. In-person visitation may not be possible if the visitor does not pass the COVID-19 screening or when the Facility incident command center has temporarily suspended visitation.
3. Facilities may provide virtual visitation as an option when available.
4. Facilities are available to visitors of patients or residents 24/7. Preferable visitation is during the day to support a restful healing environment during the night for patients or residents.
5. The number of visitors may be subject to a reasonable rotation based on the patient's or resident's clinical condition and/or the Facility's space limitations.
6. Access will be provided as required by regulatory agencies.

IV. PROCEDURE/GUIDELINES: **Supplies & Equipment**

- Alcohol Sanitizer

The electronic version of this policy is considered to be the controlled version. Printed copies are considered uncontrolled documents. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the current version

- Waste Receptacles
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): gloves, disposable gown, face mask.

V. DEFINITION(S):

Facility(ies): AdventHealth hospitals, hospices, hospital based ambulatory care facilities, and nursing home facilities in Florida.

Essential Caregiver: A family member, friend, guardian or other individual designated by the patient to be his / her support person.

VI. EXCEPTION(S): N/A

VII. REFERENCE(S):

Florida Senate Bill 988: In Person Visitation. Florida Legislature. Effective Date 05/06/2022.

Florida Statute (2021) Title XXIX: Public Health 381.026 Florida Patient's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities. Retrieved from: [Statutes & Constitution :View Statutes : Online Sunshine \(state.fl.us\)](#)

[Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)

[Florida Statute \(2021\) Title XXIX: Public Health. Chapter 400. Nursing Homes and Related Healthcare Facilities. Retrieved from: Statutes & Constitution :View Statutes : Online Sunshine \(state.fl.us\)](#)

VIII. RELATED DOCUMENT(S) / ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

The electronic version of this policy is considered to be the controlled version. Printed copies are considered uncontrolled documents. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the current version