

Liberty County Hospital & Nursing Home, Inc.
Hospital Manual of Policies and Procedures

SUBJECT: Patient Visitation Rights C-1054, C-1056, C-1058

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POLICY

Liberty Medical Center will not restrict, limit, or deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. Liberty Medical Center will also ensure that all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with the patient preferences.

The right of the patient to have visitors may be limited or restricted when visitation would interfere with the care of the patient or the care of other patients. The health care professionals may exercise their best clinical judgement when determining when visitation is, and is not, appropriate.

Patient will be informed of visitation rights and any restrictions which may be imposed. If the patient is incapacitated or otherwise unable to communicate his or her wishes and has no designated representative documentation and an individual asserts that he or she is the patient's support person LMC will accept this assertion and provide the notice of patient visitation rights. If more than one individual claims to be the patient's support person refer to Resolution for Support Person Dispute policy.

PROCEDURE/COMMENT

- A. Each patient and/or representative will be informed of his/her visitation rights including any clinical restriction or limitation of such rights on admission by way of Important Information for LMC Patients, the Admission Agreement and Patient Visitation Rights Notice in the admission packet.
- B. Each patient and/or representative will be informed of the right, subject to his/her consent, to receive visitors who he/she designates, including but not limited to, a spouse, a domestic partner (including a same sex domestic partner), another family member, or a friend, and his/her right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time.

- C. The facility will not restrict, limit, or otherwise deny visitation privileges on the basis of color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, identity, sexual orientation, or disability.
- D. The facility shall ensure that all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient care.
- E. Social worker or nursing staff will provide and review visitation rights contained in the Important Information for LMC Patients form upon observation admission and contained in the Admission Agreement for Inpatient or Swing Bed admissions. These forms will be signed and scanned into the medical record. Copies will be returned to the patient. Admission packets also contain Liberty Medical Center Patient Visitation Rights Notice for patients' reference.
- F. LMC will exercise the best clinical judgment when determining when visitation is and/or is not appropriate.
 - 1. Best clinical judgment takes into account all aspects of patient health and safety including the benefits of visitation on a patient's care as well as the negative aspects that visitors may have on the patient or others in the CAH.
 - 2. Clinically reasonable bases for Liberty Medical Center to impose restrictions or limitations on visitors might include (but is not limited to) when:
 - a. There may be infection control issues
 - b. Visitation may interfere with the care of other patients
 - c. The CAH is aware that there is an existing court order restricting contact
 - d. Visitors engage in disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior of any kind
 - e. The patient or the patient's roommate needs rest or privacy
 - f. The patient is undergoing care interventions.
 - 3. Any restrictions or limitations imposed will be discussed with patient and documented in the medical record with the reason for the restriction.
 - 4. LMC will accommodate the need of any patient, at the discretion of the provider, who requests that at least one visitor be allowed to remain in the room during care or treatment to provide support and comfort at such times.
- G. Employees of LMC who play a role in facilitating or limiting/restricting access of visitors to patients, shall receive education of visitation policy and when changes are made through orientation and employee assembly in-services as needed.