

EMERALD COAST BEHAVIORAL HOSPITAL

Policy and Procedure

Chapter:	Rights and Responsibilities	Page:	1 of 3
Effective Date:	05/06/2022	Supersedes:	N/A
		Policy #:	RI.070
Title:	Special Hospital Post COVID-19 Visitation		
	Addendum		

Purpose

To ensure that all special visitation provisions in Florida for all F.S. 395 facilities are observed and complied with.

Definitions

None

Policy

It is the policy of Emerald Coast Behavioral Hospital to ensure the rights of all patients receiving care and services. Infection Control Policy covers infection control and education policies for visitors; screening, personal protective equipment, and other infection control protocols for visitors. This policy ensures permissible length of visits and numbers of visitors, which must meet or exceed the standards in ss. 400.022(1)(b). Our organization ensures designation of a person responsible for ensuring that staff adhere to the policies and procedures. Safety-related policies and procedures may not be more stringent than those established for the provider's staff and may not require visitors to submit proof of any vaccination or immunization. The policies and procedures allow consensual physical contact between a resident, client, or patient and the visitor where safe and clinically appropriate. Within 24 hours after establishing the policies and procedures required under this section, providers must make such policies and procedures easily accessible from the homepage of their websites

Procedure

With a physician order and where applicable, the above and following will always be observed:

Essential caregiver: A resident, client, or patient may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. The provider must allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation authorized by the provider. This section does not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident, client, or patient of a provider, and providers may not require an essential caregiver to provide such care.

- The Intake Specialist shall inform the patient/support person/legal representative of the patient's visitation right.

- The patient/support person/legal representative shall acknowledge understanding of the visitation by signing the Patient's Acknowledgement form.
- In the event the patient is unable to sign the acknowledgement and there is not legal representative/support person present, the Intake Specialist shall notify the admitting nurse.
- Once the patient is determined to be in an improved state or the legal representative/support person is available, the unit nurse shall explain the patient visitation right and obtain a signature as evidence of understanding.
- The Intake Specialist shall document the identity of a Support Person/legal representative selected by a patient shall be recorded on the intake assessment form.
- The policies and procedures may require a visitor to agree in writing to follow the provider's policies and procedures. A provider may suspend in-person visitation of a specific visitor if the visitor violates the provider's policies and procedures.

These standards apply by law in the following circumstances in Hospitals:

1. End-of-life situations.
2. A resident, client, or patient who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
3. The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
4. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
5. A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
6. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
7. For hospitals, childbirth, including labor and delivery.
8. Pediatric patients.

Documentation

Designation of Essential Caregiver

References

408.283, F.S

CONCURRENCE/APPROVAL:

Medical Executive Committee

FORMS:

RI. 070A Designation of Essential Caregiver

POLICIES:

RI.039 Patient Visitation Rights

REFERENCES:

NA

ORIGINAL DATE ISSUED:

05/05/2022

DATE REVISED/REVIEWED: