



<b>Policy Title:</b>	<b>Littleton Regional Healthcare Visitation Policy</b>
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**Purpose:** We believe that families, friends and others who provide support are important for a patient's healing process. In fact, they are a vital part of the health care team. Patients admitted to Littleton Regional Healthcare or being seen at any Littleton Regional Healthcare clinic may have visitors at any time. However, there may be time when visits need to be limited. We always keep the patient's safety and healing as our focus.

**Policy:** In order to provide a safe, quiet healing environment for our patients, we may ask families and visitors to adjust their visit times. LRH uses the following guidelines:

- There may be times when visits by family and friends are not in the best interest of the patient or others in their environment, such as when the presence of visitors is medically or therapeutically contraindicated in the best clinical judgment of health care professionals
- If this occurs
  - The reason for denial of a visitor for a medical or therapeutic contraindication shall be documented in the patient's medical record.
  - Upon request the patient, or patient's representative if the patient is incapacitated, shall be provided the reason for denial;
- The presence of visitors would interfere with the care of or rights of any patient;
- Visitors are engaging in disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior toward any staff member, patient, or other visitor; or
- Visitors are noncompliant with written hospital policy.
- Visitors may be required to wear personal protective equipment provided by the facility, or provided by the visitor and approved by the facility. LRH may require visitors to comply with reasonable safety protocols and rules of conduct. The health care facility may revoke visitation rights for failure to comply with this section.
- If there is an outbreak, such as the flu or other contagious disease, visitors may be limited. Visitors may be told about necessary precautions and given directions to follow for that situation.

- Nothing in this section shall be construed to require LRH to allow a visitor to enter an operating room, isolation room, isolation unit, behavioral health setting or other typically restricted area.
- Nothing in this section shall be construed to require LRH to allow a visitor access beyond the rooms, units or wards in which the patient the visitor is visiting is receiving care or beyond general common areas in the health care facility.
- The rights specified in this policy shall not be terminated, suspended, or waived by LRH, the department of health and human services, or any governmental entity, notwithstanding declarations of emergency declared by the governor or the legislature. No health care facility licensed pursuant to RSA 151:2 shall require a patient to waive the rights specified in this section.
- Nothing in this section shall supersede the right of a patient who is terminally ill to have visitors pursuant to RSA 151:21, XVIII which states “The patient shall be entitled to have the patient's parents, if a minor, or spouse, or next of kin, unmarried partner, or a personal representative chosen by the patient, if an adult, visit the facility, without restriction, if the patient is considered terminally ill by the physician responsible for the patient's care.”

### **General Visitation Practices**

- Healing hours are designated as 8:00 pm-8:00 am but may vary on specialized units in order to create the best healing space for their patients. Please consider the length and hour of your visits. If patients desire visitors at other times, arrangements can be made through the nursing clinical supervisor.
- Visitors who are ill (have an infection, fever, cold symptoms, diarrhea or vomiting) or do not feel well should refrain from visiting.
- For their safety, children must be accompanied by an adult and must be directly supervised at all times. The patient cannot be considered the designee supervising the child.
- While we cannot routinely accommodate overnight stays, we recognize there may be special circumstances. (Please feel free to talk with us about your needs.)

<b>Responsible Owner/Author:</b>	Administration	<b>Contact(s):</b>	
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