

SUBJECT: Florida In-Person Visitation Formerly Florida DEM ORDER NO. 20-009	POLICY NUMBER: NSG 60
INDEX TITLE: Nursing	PAGE 1 of 7
ORIGINAL DATE: September 23, 2020	REVIEW DATE: December 12,2022
	REVISION DATE: January 10, 2023
APPROVED BY: <i>Kathleen M. Brown</i> Executive Vice President and Chief Quality Officer	

This policy applies to the following hospital(s):

LTCH		IRF	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Corpus Bayfront		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Allen	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Corpus Christi North		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Beaumont	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Covington		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Clarksville	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Dayton		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Centennial Hills	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Denver		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Clear Lake	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Hammond		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Clearlake-North Campus	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital at Heritage Valley		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Corpus Christi	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Jacksonville	X	PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Covington DPU	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Las Vegas		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Dover	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Luling		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of El Paso	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of New Braunfels		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Fargo	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of New Orleans		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Georgetown	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Surprise		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Golden	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Oakdale		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Houston	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Oklahoma City		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Humble	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Rocky Mount		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Jupiter	X
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of San Antonio		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Katy	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of San Antonio Medical Center		PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Luling DPU	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Sarasota	X	PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Miamisburg	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Shreveport North		PAM Health Specialty Hospital of New Braunfels DPU	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Shreveport South		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of New Orleans DPU	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Slidell		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Richardson	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Stoughton		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Round Rock	

PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Stoughton NBU		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Sugar Land	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Sparks		PAM Health Rehabilitation of Surprise	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Texarkana		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Tavares	X
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Tulsa		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Tulsa	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Victoria North		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Victoria	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Victoria South		PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Victoria North DPU	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Victoria Southeast		PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Westminster	
PAM Health Specialty Hospital of Wilkes-Barre		Rehabilitation Hospital of Overland Park	
		St. Luke's Rehabilitation Hospital	
		Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital of Kyle	
		Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital of San Antonio	
		Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital of Thousand Oaks	
		Warm Springs Rehabilitation Hospital of Westover Hills	

PURPOSE

To ensure compliance with State of Florida's "No Patient Left Alone Act".

POLICY

PAM Health Florida hospitals (the "Hospital") will comply with state applicable guidelines to protect hospital staff, patients, and visitors during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and beyond. This policy will, and must, be interpreted to fully comply with then-applicable State laws regarding the subject of in-person patient visitation. If applicable State law shall change, this policy shall be deemed to have been amended to comply with such law.

PROCEDURES

- A. Right to In-person Visitation – The Hospital will permit in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the patient objects:
 - a. End of-life situations;
 - b. A 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.
 - c. The patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
 - d. A patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 - e. A patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
 - f. A patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
 - g. For hospitals, childbirth, including labor and delivery.
 - h. Pediatric patients.
 - i. Essential caregivers who must satisfy the following criteria:
 - i. Essential caregiver: A visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual and has been given designated by the patient or his or her representative as an essential caregiver.
 - ii. An essential caregiver shall not be required to provide necessary care or services to a patient.
 - iii. The essential caregiver shall be permitted to visit the patient in-person for at least two (2) hours daily. Other than in end-of-life situations, a patient may be visited by two (2) such visitors at a time. The Hospital reserves the right to limit, at any time, the total number of visitors allowed in the Hospital based on the ability of staff to safely screen and monitor visitation. The CEO and CNO shall

be responsible for determining whether there is sufficient staff to safely screen and monitor visitation.

iv. With respect to essential caregivers, the Hospital has or will:

1. Establish policies and procedures for designation of essential caregivers;
2. Set a limit on the total number of visitors allowed in the Hospital based on the ability of staff to safely screen and monitor visitation;
3. The essential will call the main line to schedule a visit with the patient. Visitation will be from 11am-5pm Monday-Friday;
4. Provide infection prevention and control training, including training on proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), hand hygiene, and social distancing;
5. The hospital staff will educate the visitor on infection prevention and control training;
6. Screen general visitors to prevent possible introduction of COVID-19;
7. Maintain a visitor log for signing in and out;
8. Prohibit visits if the patient is quarantined or if the patient is positive for or shows symptoms of COVID-19;
9. Monitor visitor adherence to appropriate use of face masks, PPE, and social distancing; and
10. After attempts to mitigate concerns, restrict or revoke visitation if the essential caregiver fails to follow infection prevention and control requirements or other COVID-19-related rules of the Hospital.

v. Essential caregivers shall:

1. Be identified by the patient or the patient's representative and will be limited in number as permitted by law;
2. Be limited in number at any time inside the Hospital to insure the Hospital can safely screen and monitor, as appropriate;
3. At all times wear a surgical mask and other PPE that is consistent with the most recent CDC guidance for health care workers;
4. As appropriate, participate in Hospital-provided training on infection prevention and control, use of PPE, use of masks, hand sanitation, and social distancing, and sign acknowledgement of completion of training and adherence to the Hospital's infection prevention and control policies.
5. Comply with Hospital-provided COVID-19 testing, if offered, so long as use of testing is based on the most recent CDC and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidance;
6. Provide care or visit in the patient's room or in Hospital designated areas within the building; and
7. Maintain social distance of at least six feet with staff and other patients and limit movement in the Hospital.

j. General visitors, i.e. individuals other than essential caregivers or compassionate care visitors, under the criteria detailed below.

i. To accept general visitors, the Hospital must meet the following criteria:

1. Other than in a dedicated wing or unit that accepts COVID-19 cases from the community, the Hospital must have no new Hospital-onset of patient COVID-19 cases in the previous fourteen (14) days;
2. The Hospital must have fourteen (14) days with no new Hospital-onset of staff COVID-19 cases where a positive staff person was in the Hospital in the ten (10) days prior to the positive test;
3. Sufficient staff to support management of visitors;
4. Adequate PPE for staff;
5. Adequate cleaning and disinfecting supplies; and
6. Adequate capacity at referral hospitals for the Hospital.

ii. General visitors must:

1. Be eighteen (18) years of age or older;
2. Wear a face mask and perform proper hand hygiene;
3. Sign a consent form noting understanding of the Hospital's visitation and infection prevention and control policies;
4. Comply with Hospital-provided COVID-19 testing, if offered, so long as use of testing is based on the most recent CDC and FDA guidance;
5. Only visit in a patient's room or other Hospital-designated area; and
6. Maintain social distance of at least six feet with staff and patients, and limit movement in the Hospital.

iii. Before allowing general visitors, the Hospital shall:

1. Prohibit visitation if the patient receiving general visitors is quarantined, positive for COVID-19 and not recovered (as defined by most recent CDC guidance), or symptomatic for COVID-19;
2. Screen general visitors to prevent possible introduction of COVID-19;
3. Establish limits on the total number of visitors allowed in the Hospital based on the ability of staff to safely screen and monitor visitation, including limits on the length of visits, days, hours and number of visits per week;
4. Schedule visitors by appointment only;
5. Maintain a visitor log for signing in and out;
6. Immediately cease general visitation if a patient—other than in a dedicated wing or unit that accepts COVID-19 cases from the community—tests positive for COVID-19, or is exhibiting symptoms indicating that he or she is presumptively positive for COVID-19, or a staff person who was in the Hospital in the ten (10) days prior tests positive for COVID-19;
7. Monitor visitor adherence to appropriate use of masks, PPE, and social distancing;
8. Notify and inform patients and their representatives of any changes in the Hospital's visitation policy;
9. Clean and disinfect visiting areas between visitors and maintain handwashing or sanitation stations; and

10. Designate staff to support infection-prevention and control education of visitors on use of PPE, use of masks, hand sanitation, and social distancing.
 11. Provide outdoor visitation spaces that are protected from weather elements, such as porches, courtyards, patios, or other covered areas that are protected from heat and sun, with cooling devices if needed, and/or create indoor visitation spaces for patients in a room that is not accessible by other patients, or in the patient's private room if the patient is bedbound and for health reasons cannot leave his or her room.
- iv. Each patient or his or her representative may designate up to five (5) general visitors. A patient may be visited by no more than two (2) general visitors at a time.
- B. All individuals who enter the Hospital and who will have physical contact with any patient must wear PPE pursuant to the most recent CDC guidelines. All individuals who enter the Hospital and will not have physical contact with any patient must wear a face mask.
- C. Individuals seeking entry to the Hospital, will not be allowed to enter if they meet any of the screening criteria listed below:
- a. Any person infected with COVID-19 who does not meet the most recent criteria from the CDC to end quarantine.
 - b. Any person showing, presenting signs or symptoms of, or disclosing the presence of a respiratory infection, including cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, headache, muscle pain, repeated shaking with chills, new loss of taste or smell, or any other COVID-19 symptoms identified by the CDC.
 - c. Any person who has been in contact with any person(s) known to be infected with COVID-19, who does not meet the most recent criteria from the CDC to end isolation
- D. Patients leaving the Hospital temporarily for medical appointments or other activities, and patients receiving visits from health care providers, must wear a face mask, if tolerated by the patient's condition. All patients must be screened upon return to the Hospital. Eye protection should also be encouraged. Appointments should be scheduled through the Hospital to ensure proper screening and adherence to infection control measures.
- E. All visitors must immediately inform the Hospital 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 Hospital.
- F. Documentation showing compliance with the following requirements must be kept for all visitation within the Hospital:
- a. Individuals entering the Hospital must be screened using a standardized questionnaire or other form of documentation.
 - b. The Hospital will maintain documentation of all non-patient individuals entering the Hospital. The documentation must contain:
 - i. Name of the individual entering the Hospital;

- ii. Date and time of entry; and
- iii. The screening mechanism used by the Hospital to conclude that the individual did not meet any of the enumerated screening criteria. This documentation must include the screening employee's printed name and signature.