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Owner Tamaris Clark:
Director of
IP Maternal
& Child
Health
Policy Area Mother-
Baby Unit
References Guideline

Guideline: Visitation in Mother-Baby Unit

PURPOSE:

To provide for a family-centered birth experience, that incorporates health, safety, privacy and comfort for our patients. It is the guideline of Confluence Health Hospital Central Campus to allow visitation on the Mother/Baby Unit (MBU) of family and friends in order to facilitate the family-centered care concept while protecting the health, safety, privacy and comfort of the mother and baby. The Mother-Baby Unit Security Guidelines and Special Care Nursery Visitation Agreement (both attached) provide guidelines for visitation for the family and visitors.

GUIDELINES:

A. LABOR AND DELIVERY UNIT (LDU)

1. A designated support person, is encouraged to be present throughout the labor and delivery process. Additional visitors will be permitted at the request of the patient and the discretion of the nurse. Visitors will be asked to leave the Labor & Delivery room during any emergency situations or when the privacy or safety of the patient is compromised. To protect the safety, privacy and comfort of other patients, visitors will not be allowed to wait in the hallways in the Mother Baby Unit , including the LDU area at any time. The designated support person of the patient is allowed to attend a Cesarean-section birth with the approval of the attending anesthesiologist.
2. At delivery, minor-age siblings may be in attendance during the birth process, at the parent's request, and at the discretion of the nurse and attending provider.
 - a. Attendance may be discontinued at the discretion of the nurse and/or provider if the health, safety, privacy, or comfort of the patient is

compromised, and/or in the presence of any condition not conducive to a positive experience for all family members.

- b. The parents of minor-age siblings attending the delivery will be responsible for making arrangements for a designated adult, other than the laboring patient or her designated support person, to supervise and attend to the needs of the children present during the delivery.

3. Audio/video recorders:

- a. Confluence Health recognizes the increasing desire of childbearing families to videotape their birthing experience. Every attempt will be made to accommodate a couple's desire to videotape their child's birth based on the following guidelines:
 - I. The couple must obtain permission to videotape their child's birth from their provider during a prenatal visit.
 - II. If complications develop, the provider or charge nurse makes the final determination as to the advisability of videotaping. The visitor must stop videotaping immediately when asked by the provider or the nurse.
 - III. Video cameras must be battery operated. The use of electrical cords may cause a potential safety hazard.
 - IV. Tripods and light sources not contained within the camera are not permitted at any time.
 - V. Not all medical/nursing providers wish to be videotaped. Patients and their visitors must respect a provider/staff members wishes and refrain from videotaping them if asked.
 - VI. During a vaginal delivery, the camera operator must be stationary at the head of the bed. Walking around the delivery room while using the camera may cause a potential safety hazard.
 - VII. Videotaping is not permitted during a cesarean section; however, the infant may be videotaped after transfer to the nursery or patient room.
 - VIII. The nurse will document in the patient's record when a birth is being videotaped.
 - IX. Parents interested in videotaping their child's birth must agree to abide by videotaping guidelines of Confluence Health Hospital Central Campus.
 - X. Professional conduct and conversation during videotaping must be carried out by all parties involved.

B. MOTHER-BABY UNIT (MBU)

1. The designated support person may visit at any time. Siblings and other visitors may visit between the hours of 1000 and 2000, provided the health, safety, privacy, and comfort of the mother and baby, and other patients within the unit are not negatively

impacted. Visitation after hours will be restricted to the designated support person who is identified by the Family ID Band (see guidelines for Identification of Newborn). Visitation may be restricted at the discretion of the nurse and/or provider. There may be times when the infant's condition precludes its inclusion in the visitation.

2. Due to infection control and health concerns, visitors in MBU will be restricted to individuals who are free of signs/symptoms of communicable diseases.
3. Nursing staff that observe a visitor exhibiting signs/symptoms of an infectious/communicable disease, will assess the situation, and if deemed appropriate, will ask the visitor to leave.
4. Children
 - a. Sibling visits are encouraged for healthy and ill newborn infants
 - b. Prior to an under-age sibling visit, a member of the MBU staff should interview the parents to assess current health of each sibling visitor.
 - I. Children with fever or symptoms of an acute illness, such as upper respiratory infection or gastroenteritis should not be allowed to visit
 - II. Children who have been exposed recently to a known communicable disease (ig, chicken pox) should not be allowed to visit.
 - c. Children should be prepared in advance for their visit
 - d. Children should only visit their siblings.
 - e. Children should practice hand hygiene according to the CH Guidelines prior to patient contact
 - f. Parents or another responsible adult should supervise sibling activity.
 - g. Children are to be seated while holding the newborn
 - h. Adult assistance must be given to children while holding the newborn
 - i. Children are to remain in the patient's immediate area
 - j. The privacy of other patients must be respected
5. The patient and when possible family and visitors will receive education regarding infection control precautions including:
 1. The importance of effective hand washing by all individuals prior to handling the newborn; and
 2. Avoid exposing the newborn to infectious and/or communicable diseases.
6. The Nurse is responsible for:
 1. Exercising judgment as to when the general status of the patient is conducive to a family visit.
 2. Ascertaining that the patient and designated support person have read the [Mother Baby Pediatrics Security Guideline](#).

7. Non-obstetrical patients on MBU:

1. Visitation of family and friends to non-obstetrical/GYN patients on the MBU will be restricted to the above outlined visiting hours and infection control guidelines.

C. **SPECIAL CARE NURSERY (SCN)**

1. Visitation of ill infants in the SCN will be guided by the status of the infant.
2. Under-age siblings will be allowed to visit as guided by SCN RN and the infant status
 - a. Section B-4 under the Mother-Baby Unit -Children will also pertain to SCN visitation
3. All visitors to the SCN, including underage siblings should wash their hands thoroughly
4. Refer to [Special Care Nursery Visitation Agreement](#)

REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- A. Guidelines for Perinatal Care, American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, 8th ed., 2017, pp. 390-391.
- B. Gardner, Sandra L et al. Merenstein and Gardner's Handbook of Neonatal Intensive Care, 9th ed., Elsevier, 2021, pp. 1080-1083.
- C. Pre-PolicyStat Policy Number - OB-44

ADDITIONAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY:

Tamaris Clark, R.N.C., Nurse Manager: 6/2024

Amanda Cortes, R.N.C., Nurse Clinical Supervisor: 6/2024

Laura Johnson, RN Nurse Educator: 6/2024

Attachments

[51496Mother_Baby_Pediatrics Security Guidelines E-S.pdf](#)

[53078SCN Visitation Agreement.pdf](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description

Approver

Date

PolicyStat Administrator	Crista Davis: Regulatory Standards Coordinator	7/23/2024
Medical Reviewer	Brenda Baumeister: PHYS MGR Pediatric Hospitalists	7/23/2024
Director	Barbara Lawson: Nurse Director	7/12/2024
	Barbara Lawson: Nurse Director	7/12/2024

Standards

No standards are associated with this document

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