

THE CARPENTER HOUSE: VISITATION

Policy No. F01.008

Revised 8/17/23; 11/30/23 (Approved 3/19/24)

PURPOSE

To outline the policy and guidelines for visitation in the hospice IPU.

POLICY

Patients may have visitors at any time providing visitor guidelines are followed.

PROCEDURE

Visitation

1. Visitation will be discussed with the patient/family upon admission.
2. Any **patient** eighteen years or older, **or his legal or designated representative**, may designate those individuals who will not be denied access to visit him in person during any stay in the hospice IPU.
 - i. **This includes, but is not limited to, visitation from immediate family members, members of clergy, and other designated persons.**
 - ii. Staff reserves the right to limit the number of visitors if visitation interferes with the ability of the staff to attend to a patient's needs or if visitation disturbs other patients.
3. Patients have the right to consensual nonsexual physical contact such as handholding or hugging.
4. Arrangements will be made for visitors to stay overnight.
 - i. One overnight guest per patient is welcome to stay in the patient's room. Special consideration will be given to patients nearing the end of life.
 - ii. If staff have any concerns about an overnight stay, the Nurse Manager or Social Worker will be contacted.
 - iii. After-hours concerns will be directed to the Nurse Manager.
5. Visiting privileges, including overnight stays, may be revoked if staff notes the presence of illegal drugs, alcohol, physical or verbal aggression towards others, or carrying a weapon.
6. Children are welcome to visit, however, it is strongly urged that they do not visit during times of their own illness. Direct supervision of children is required at all times.
7. Group visitation (churches, community organizations) will be arranged through the Administrator or Nurse Manager and noted on the activity calendar.
8. All visitors are expected to follow established Hospice Facilities rules as outlined in the Admission Packet information and Admission Agreement Statement given to patients/families on admission.
9. Pets may visit, however, they must be properly restrained. Arrangements should be made with the Nurse Manager prior to visitation.

During Any Declared State of Public Health Emergency

1. **The provisions of the licensing rules in §8261.C-F shall be preempted by any federal statute, regulation, requirement, order, or guideline from a federal government agency that requires an inpatient hospice facility to restrict patient visitation in a manner that is more restrictive than the rules.**
2. **TCH will practice compliance with laws, regulations, requirements, orders, or guidelines issued by any federal government agency during a PHE.**

3. TCH will practice compliance with a Louisiana state health officer order or emergency notice with any governor's executive order or proclamation issued during a PHE.
4. Length and location of visits may be defined.
5. Visitors are not required to submit proof of any vaccination or immunization.
6. Visitors may be required to submit to health screenings consistent with CDC recommendations, testing, and use of PPE as necessary.
7. Visitors may not be permitted if they display obvious signs or symptoms of infection, if they test positive for infection, or if they refuse to comply with the visitation policy.

REFERENCE

LA: "No Patient Left Alone Law."

§8259. Visitation by Members of the Clergy during a Declared Public Health Emergency

§8261. Visitation by Immediate Family Members and Other Designated Persons during a Declared Public Health Emergency