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**Owner:** Sandra Olson: Assc Dir Inpatient Nursing&Ops  
**Area:** COVID-19 Response - Inpatient  
**References:**  
**Applicability:** Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Inpatient Policies

## Visitation Restriction Policy for COVID-19 Pandemic Response

### POLICY:

To protect our staff, patients, and community during the outbreak of COVID-19, visitor restrictions will occur. Routine visiting is limited at SCCA Hospital until the transmission of COVID-19 is no longer a threat to our patients, staff and community.

### PURPOSE:

Visitors will be screened at specified entry points for symptoms of respiratory illness. Visitors should stay in the patient's room except when arriving or departing the facility. Only asymptomatic visitors will be allowed into hospital facilities based on the parameters outlined below.

### Visitation Guidelines

- SCCA Hospital is temporarily restricting visiting hours to 6 am to 8:30 pm.
- Visitors are not allowed to spend the night.
- No visitors under the age of 16.
- Each patient may have 1 visitor who must wear a mask in accordance with the Required and Extended Use Masking Policy.
- All visitors are required to wear masks or face coverings at all times while in SCCA Hospital. This includes while in a patient room.
- Visitors may remove masks to eat or drink when in patient rooms, but masks must go on immediately after doing so.
- No eating or drinking within 6 feet of patients or staff.
- Visitor should stay in the patient's room. Once the visitor leaves the patient's room, they **must** leave the hospital (unless, for safety reasons, they are accompanying a patient on a walk down the hallway).
- After arriving to the patient's room, visitors may not go to the cafeteria and espresso stand.
- Visitors are expected to use the restroom in the patient's room unless there's a clinical reason to use the public restroom. Visitors may not remove any supplies or equipment from SCCA Hospital. Notify a supervisor immediately if observed.
- Visitor restriction policy applies to SCCA employees who have family members in the hospital.
- No visitors will be allowed in rooms of Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) or COVID-19 positive patients

(unless end of life).

- No other visitors will be allowed in the hospital at this time. Any exceptions to this policy must be cleared by the Associate Director, Director, AOC or Chief Nursing Executive.

## Visitation Exceptions

- Patients who are under the age of 18 may have one visitor, or parents or guardians.
- Patients who are at the end-of-life may have 2 visitors.
  - End-of-life is defined by a patient who is highly likely to die in the coming days and is not restricted to patients on a comfort care pathway.
  - Visitors must stay in the room for the duration of each visit.
  - The Nurse Manager has the discretion to limit the duration of the visit based on the clinical scenario.
  - Visits from a minor are permissible if accompanied by a parent or guardian and approved by the care team.
  - The Nursing Supervisor or Nurse Manager will ensure appropriate application of the policy when there is concern or disagreement among members of the care team.
- Patients who need a caregiver for safety because of their mental, developmental status, or for their disability such as blindness and/or hearing.
- Patients who require a home caregiver to be trained may have 1 visitor in addition to the caregiver.
- Community-based care providers who are involved in the care of the patient may visit in addition to the patient's 1 visitor for support and care continuity.

## REFERENCES

[CMS regulation: 42 CFR §482.13\(h\)](#)

[Required and Extended-use Masking Policy and FAQ](#)

## Attachments

No Attachments

## Approval Signatures

Approver	Date
Terry McDonnell: Chief Nurse Exec, VP-Clin Ops	10/2020
Tracy Wong: Director of Quality and Value	10/2020
Rusty Thurman: Fire Safety & Emerg Prep Mgr	10/2020
Sandra Olson: Assc Dir Inpatient Nursing&Ops	10/2020

## Applicability

Seattle Cancer Care Alliance Inpatient Policies