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**FAMILY PRESENCE (Visiting Patients)**

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**POLICY**

The Lennox and Addington County General Hospital's Family Presence policy has been developed to provide patient and family Centered care in an environment that meets the needs for infection control standards, providing a safe environment for patients, staff and our Community. Family and friends play an important role in a patient's healing process.

**Visiting Guidelines:**

Visitation is by invitation of the patient. While the patient may request that Family and friends remain at the bedside at all times, this may not be possible. Visiting may be restricted to protect the privacy and rights of other patients. There may be times when visitors are asked to temporarily step out of the patient's room in order for the hospital staff to provide care.

Family and friends should not visit patients in the hospital if they are or feel unwell. All persons entering the Hospital must use the hand sanitizer before entering. Any member of the clinical team may ask a visitor not to visit a patient if they are exhibiting symptoms of a condition that may be transferrable to the patient.

Family and Friends are encouraged to visit only one (1) patient per visit. Please limit visitors to no more than two (2) at a time. Children must be appropriately supervised by an accompanying adult at all times.

**Special Care Unit:**

Family and friends visiting patients in the Special Care Unit may be limited in number and visitors are encouraged to visit for short periods. Exceptions will be considered at the discretion of the Charge Nurse.

**Palliative Care:**

The Palliative Care visiting hours are open ended.

**Isolation:**

Family and Friends proceeding to any room posted with "Isolation Precautions" must report to the Nursing Station for instruction. When isolation precautions are in place, visiting restrictions may be required.

**Exceptions to Regular Visiting Hours:****Individuals Accompanying Patients in Emergency Department/Out-patient Clinic Area:**

Those patients coming to the Emergency Department or Out-patient Clinic Areas, who require assistance, may be accompanied by one (1) person into the Department/stretchers area. Due to limited space within the Emergency Department, visitors are limited to one per adult patient and two per child.

After-hours access for visitors is via the emergency entrance. Visitors must use the triage phone to speak to a staff member prior to being granted access to the Hospital.