



Policy: Visitation Guidelines

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Guidelines for Visitors

PMH Medical Center encourages visitation of family and friends to assist in the health, well being and healing process of our patients. Visitors are requested to limit visits to daytime and early evening hours and be sensitive to the number of visitors in a patient's room allowing time for the patient to rest and heal.

A patient's visitation rights will not be restricted, limited, or otherwise denied visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability.

All patients have the right to restrict visitors and are responsible for informing staff of their visitor preferences. Staff will adhere to a patient's wishes if he or she chooses to exclude visitors, including but not limited to, a spouse, a domestic partner (including a same-sex domestic partner), another family member, or a friend, and his or her right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time. A sign indicating visitor restrictions will be placed on the patient's door.

Staff, in collaboration with the patient's physician, has the responsibility to limit visitors when in the best interest of the patient's medical care.

For the health of both patient and visitor there may be times that visitation must be limited such as when a patient is being treated for a contagious disease such as MRSA, RSV, pertussis, gastroenteritis or other conditions that could be spread to visitors either through physical contact or in the air.

Visitors who have experienced a fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, skin rash, vomiting or diarrhea in the last 48 hours before a visit is planned should be encouraged to stay home until they are certain they will not expose the patient to more risk of disease.

Visitors exhibiting respiratory symptoms may be asked to wear a mask for their protection as well as that of the patient and staff.

Visitation by children is welcomed provided it is beneficial to the patient and/or children. Children under the age of 12 visiting the hospital are to be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult at all times. The parent or responsible adult should consider the emotional health of the child since seeing a loved one who is seriously ill and/or on supportive equipment may be very traumatic for a child.



The adult(s) responsible for the children needs to be informed of and support the following responsibilities:

- Children need to stay in the room of the patient they are visiting so other patients on the unit can rest without disruption.
- Children's behavior is monitored and controlled by the responsible adult at all times during the visit.
- If the children visiting are disturbing to other patients, visitors, or staff then the responsible adult will be asked to correct the situation or staff will request the children leave the area.

Visitors who are disruptive or disturb patients, staff, or other visitors will be asked to stop the disruptive behavior. Anyone who is asked to stop such behavior and remains out of compliance will be asked to leave the premises by a staff member designated as having security authority.

Visitors who display threatening behavior, either physical or verbal, will be handled by staff in accordance with the Code Gray Procedure up to and including contacting the Prosser Police Department.

Visitors should be respectful of PMH Medical Center's "Tobacco Free Environment" policy, #865-3001 and understand we are a Tobacco-free Campus.

Visitors are encouraged to clean their hands prior to physical contact with a patient or holding a newborn infant.

A meal tray can be obtained through the PMH Food Service Department if desired. Staff and/or Patient Registration staff can assist visitors in purchasing a meal tray.

Staff encountering non-compliant visitors should call their Department Leader or Patient Care Coordinator for assistance.