BERKSHIRE HEALTH SYSTEM
POLICY

TITLE: IC.B.5 - VISITING RESTRICTIONS

PURPOSE: Visitation restrictions will be imposed the of control of epidemic/pandemic proportion or in situations of administrative necessity. A visiting ban will be imposed during disease epidemics/pandemics or other unusual circumstances to assure the safety and well being of all patients admitted to inpatient units at Berkshire Health System (BHS).

APPLICABILITY: All BHS staff

SPECIFICS:

I. Declaration of visiting ban:

A. Restrictions recommended by the Chief Operating Office/Administrator, Infection Prevention and Control Department, Department of Public Health, Center for Disease Control or other regulatory agencies.

B. Decision of the Chief Operating Officer/Administrator.

II. Possible restrictions imposed:

A. Visitors will be limited or prohibited as appropriate for infection prevention.

B. Visitors showing symptoms of or exposure to infectious disease by screen or self-declaration will not be allowed to visit.

C. Type of restrictions determined by degree of emergency, e.g. limiting hours to shorter periods, limiting number of visitors, prohibiting children or complete visiting ban.

D. No one beyond approved visitors will be allowed in the building.

E. No one under 18 or other age limit

III. Possible exceptions – will be determined based on the reason for the visitor restriction and the patient’s needs:

A. Pediatric unit: one adult per child

B. Family Birth Place/Mother-Baby Unit: one birth partner per patient
C. Behavioral Health: one adult visitor per patient (illness screening may be required).

D. End of life: number of adult visitors based on specific circumstances

E. Visitors will be required to perform hand hygiene before and after entering patient’s room.

F. Visitors may be required to limit time spent with patient and maintain a prescribed distance from the patient.

G. Behavioral health patients will have access to their attorney or legal advocate, psychiatrist, psychologist, clergy member or social worker. These visitors will also be subject to screening for symptoms of or exposure to infectious disease.

H. Other exception may be made on a case to case basis based on patient needs.

IV. Communication between patients and their families during visitation restriction:

A. Patients will be provided with a telephone or other electronic medium to communicate with loved ones.

B. Nursing units/Patient relations will assume responsibility for patient-family contact.

V. Planning and community notification:

A. Planning and control measures will be coordinated by Chief Operating Officer/Administrator, the Chief Nursing Officer and Safety and Security.

B. Visitor restriction signage will be posted at all hospital entrances.

C. BHS will post notices in traditional and social media platforms.

D. A letter will be given to all inpatients.

E. Questions about the policy can be answered by Patient Relations and Alternative Shift Director.

V1. See addendum 1 for current restrictions.
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<td>FV Administrator</td>
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<td>EFFECTIVE:</td>
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