

# The Health Care Authority of the City of Anniston

## VISITING RULES

Policy Applies To:	Organization, Administrative
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Review History:	2/2004; 10/08, 5/2019, 8/2022
Revised History:	12/84; 12/85; 2/89; 4/90; 8/90; 9/90; 8/93; 1/95; 3/97; 6/00; 7/00; 11/08; 1/11; 7/2014; 6/2016, 2/2023, 3/2023; 1/2024; 4/2024

**PURPOSE:** To create an atmosphere conducive to a speedy recovery and maintain a safe and secure facility.

**OBJECTIVES:** Establish visiting rules compliant with § 482.13 CMS Condition of Participation:  
Patient's Rights.

Establish control over the entrances to the building by locking schedule.

### I. GENERAL VISITING RULES

- A. Each patient, or his or her representative where appropriate, has the right, subject to his or her consent, to receive the visitors whom he or she designates, whether a spouse, a domestic partner (including a same-sex domestic partner), another family member, or a friend, and the right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time unless clinically necessary or reasonable restriction or limitation needs to be placed on such rights.
  1. Potential reasons for restricting or limiting visitors:
    - a. Any court order limiting or restraining contact;
    - b. Behavior presenting a direct risk or threat to the patient, hospital staff, or others in the immediate environment;
    - c. Behavior disruptive of the functioning of the patient care unit;
    - d. Patient's risk of infection by the visitor;
    - e. Visitor's risk of infection by the patient;
    - f. Extraordinary protections because of a pandemic or infectious disease outbreak;
    - g. Substance abuse treatment protocols requiring restricted visitation;
    - h. Patient's need for privacy or rest;
    - i. Need for privacy or rest by another individual in the patient's shared room.
- B. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult and may visit immediate family members only (sisters, brothers, parents, grandparents). The adult is responsible for the child's behavior. **Visiting children are not permitted to stay overnight in patient rooms.**
- C. Children under age 12 are not allowed to visit on the Intensive Care Unit except with permission of the physician and should remain in the main lobby until that visiting time occurs.

Policy Approvers:	Kandi Williams (CNO)	Date Last Reviewed/Revised:	04/02/2024
CEO Approval:	Louis A. Bass - President/CEO		

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- D. To help prevent the spread of illness, no child under 12 years of age will be allowed on the Pediatric Unit, except for brothers and sisters of the patient.
- E. In semi-private rooms or wards, only visitors of the same sex may stay overnight with patients
- F. Patients should not visit other rooms, or visit from bed-to-bed.
- G. Before food is brought to the unit for patients, approval from the nurse must be obtained.

### II. VISITING HOURS

- A. **Regular:** 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
*Exception: Patients having special procedures in the early morning.*
- B. **Maternity:** 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM

The OB department allows 3 rotating visitors in a patient's room with the following exceptions:

1. At the time of delivery, only 3 visitors (non-rotating) will be allowed.
2. Nursing/Medical staff is permitted to limit if needed for patient safety.
3. No children under 12 years old unless sibling.
4. Sibling visitation (for less than 12 years old): Siblings may visit on the postpartum unit each day from 4p -9p. A responsible adult (not the patient) must remain with anyone less than 12 years old.

- C. **Psychiatric Adults:** Everyday 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
**Geriatric:** Everyday 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

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D. **Intensive Care Unit:** The Intensive Care Unit has suggested visiting guidelines, so that each patient can receive the required care and rest. A telephone is available in the waiting room with direct access to the nurse's station.

Visitors are limited to two (2) persons at a time and must be 12 years of age; however, exceptions to the age and visitor restrictions will be made on a case by case basis.

Suggested visiting times are:

RMC Anniston	Stringfellow Campus
6:15 AM - 6:30 AM	9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	11:00 AM – 11:30 AM
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	1:00 PM – 1:30 PM
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	3:00 PM – 3:30 PM
5:00 PM - 5:30 PM	5:00 PM – 5:30 PM
8:15 PM - 8:30 PM	

Each patient is allowed to designate a support person who may visit at any time. The sponsor may stay in the patient's room with the door closed.

- The ICU rooms are small and do not accommodate recliners and sleeping chairs.
- Overnight visitors are discouraged as the patient needs rest. Beds, linens and bath accommodations cannot be provided for family members.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the ICU.
- To optimize patient care, visitors are not allowed to linger in the hallways or nurses' station.
- Visitors are allowed at all times, but may be asked to step out of the ICU at any time secondary to emergency situations.

Exceptions to this policy will be left to the discretion of the Nurse Manager and/or Charge Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit.

**In emergency situations, visitors will be asked to leave the unit.**

E. **Pediatrics:** Parents may visit at any time. No one under the age of 12 may visit **except brothers and sisters of the patient.**

F. **ALL DOORS WILL BE LOCKED AFTER 9:00 PM AND ALL VISITORS WILL NEED TO USE THE EMERGENCY ROOM ENTRANCE.**

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### III. COVID-19 UNIT

#### VISITING HOURS

**8:00 AM – 9:00 PM**

The following criteria are required for all visitors:

- Only one (1) visitor at a time (may rotate).
- All visitors must check in at the designated COVID Unit Nurses Desk for instructions.
- Use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment will be required for all visitors prior to entering patient room.

**\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON CENSUS\***

**House Supervisor is responsible for ensuring the Healthcare staff adheres to the policy.**

Effective: 3/20/82

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