

VISITOR GUIDELINES

Our staff and physicians believe that visiting is helpful to the recovery of our patients. However, patients who are hospitalized need rest to recover from their illness and the treatments they receive while in hospital. We ask that you respect the needs of our patients and GBHS' responsibility to maintain infection control standards to keep our hospitals safe for patients and visitors. Please help your relatives and friends by following these guidelines when visiting our hospitals:

1. Visiting hours are 2 – 8 p.m.
2. Please limit the number of visitors at one time to two.
3. For pediatric, obstetrical and newborn visiting hours please check with the charge nurses at the nursing station. For labour and delivery and postpartum areas, the spouse or significant other has unrestricted visiting. Two persons may support women in labour.
4. Children 12 years of age and under must be supervised at all times by an adult.
5. There are visiting policies for patients on compassionate grounds. Please check with the nursing stations for details.
6. Visitors may be asked to leave during patient treatments.
7. Patients have the right to elect not to have visitors and signs will be posted on their room door.
8. GBHS has the right to place restrictions on its visiting hours at any time and for specific visitors.
9. One support person may accompany patients attending appointments in ambulatory care, outpatient departments or physician offices.
10. One support person may accompany patients into examination rooms in the emergency department unless the patient's condition is critical or the patient can safely tolerate additional visitors.
11. All other support persons are directed to wait for patients in waiting rooms and restrict their movement to non-clinical areas.

Visiting “Dos and Don’ts”

1. *Limit the duration of your visit.*

- Patients who are hospitalized today are far sicker than they were in the past
- Please respect their need to rest and recover from their illness, surgery or medical procedures

12. *Do not visit a patient in the hospital if you are ill.*

- People who are sick are not able to fight off infection as easily as healthy people
- You may infect your relative or friend causing a longer stay in hospital for them

12. *Please practice proper hand washing while in hospital.*

- Many infectious diseases are passed from person to person because people do not wash their hands
- You can protect yourself and your family from exposure to infection in hospital by washing your hands on entry and exit from the hospital

12. *Identify one member of your family as the contact with the hospital.*

- One member of the family can speak regularly to the nurses to determine your relative or friend's condition and help to support the timing and amount of visiting

12. *Consider leaving your children at home.*

- Children are at increased risk of being exposed to disease while visiting
- If a child is ill they are more likely to accidentally spread their illness to someone else