



Originator: Administration  
Original Date: 4/94  
Review/Revision Dates: 9/94, 5/96, 3/98, 3/98, 1/01, 5/04, 12/06, 11/09, 08/11, 6/14, 6/15, 6/16, 6/17, 6/18  
Stakeholders: Administration, Inpatient Nursing, Inpatient Therapy, Security, Medical Staff, Case Management  
Folder: Provision of Care

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### Patient Visitation

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Purpose: The protection and promotion of patient visitation rights.

Policy:

- I. On admission or as soon as possible thereafter, St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute (St. Luke's), shall present each patient (or support person, where appropriate) with a written copy of his/her visitation rights, including any clinical restriction or limitation on his/her rights.
- II. St. Luke's its right to restrict patient visitation when necessary for clinical or patient treatment reasons. St. Luke's shall inform each patient (or support person where necessary), and document any clinically necessary restrictions or limitations on visitation rights, on admission or as soon as the need for such a restriction or limitation arises.
- III. Each patient (or support person, where appropriate) shall be informed of the right, subject to his/her consent, to receive the visitors whom he/she designates. The patient shall also be informed of his/her right to withdraw or deny consent at any time.
- IV. St. Luke's shall not limit, restrict, or deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability
- V. St. Luke's recognizes that should a patient be incapacitated, a support person will be required to make decisions on behalf of a patient regarding visitors.
  - a. The support person does not necessarily need to be the person authorized as the surrogate decision-maker for St. Luke's the patient.
  - b. Unless circumstances require otherwise, St. Luke's shall accept a claim to be a patient support person at face value
  - c. St. Luke's may, when circumstances require, request written documentation of patient representation by a legal document. Examples of when documentation might be required are if there is a conflict between two visitors or if there is a dispute as to who the patient support person is. Hospital shall follow RCW 7.70.065 in resolving conflicts among those claiming to be support persons. The hierarchy listed below would be used in determining who would be able to make decisions on behalf of the patient regarding visitors
    - i. The appointed guardian of the patient, if any;
    - ii. The individual, if any, to whom the patient has given a durable power of attorney that encompasses the authority to make health care decisions;
    - iii. The patient's spouse or state registered domestic partner;

- iv. Children of the patient who are at least eighteen years of age;
    - v. Parents of the patient; and
    - vi. Adult brothers and sisters of the patient
  - d. In no case may St. Luke's request documentation of status as a patient support person in a way that discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability
- VI. General Guidelines
  - a. Visitors should be properly attired. Shirts and shoes are required for safety reasons
  - b. Visitation may be denied if the visitor has a fever, cold, sore throat, or signs of influenza or other illness
  - c. The number of persons visiting a patient at one time may be limited depending on the patient's condition or when environmental conditions warrant.
  - d. After 6:30 pm, the main building lobby entrance will be secured and the visitor will need to enter through the Medical office building entrance until 9:00 pm when that entrance is secured. After 9:00 pm, visitors will need to contact security to obtain access to the building.
  - e. St. Luke's is a tobacco free campus and smoking can only occur off campus.
  - f. Visitors who behave in a hostile or disruptive manner, or are impeding the delivery of patient care may be contacted by Security and denied access to the facility. Examples of hostile or disruptive behavior include but are not limited to the following:
    - i. Being intoxicated (drugs and/or alcohol)
    - ii. Attempting to physically intimidate another person through acts, words, and/or behavior
    - iii. Yelling and/or using profanity
    - iv. Using words and/or behavior to cause mental and/or physical harm including emotional distress on another person
    - v. Brandishing a weapon and/or something that could be used as a weapon
    - vi. Inappropriate physical contact, sexual or otherwise
    - vii. Using alcohol and/or illegal drugs
    - viii. Violating hospital policies
  - g. Children 12 years and younger should be directly supervised by an adult at least 18 years of age.