

**Florida Patient Visitation
Addendum**

CORE: Patient Visitation Rights

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PURPOSE

This policy addendum establishes patient rights to visitation for Florida Kindred Hospitals as mandated by Florida SB 988, the No Patient Left Alone Act.

POLICY

The visitation policy will be available for review on the home page of the hospital’s website. If at any time there are restrictions that limit standard visitation, the restrictions will be posted to the hospital website’s homepage within 24 hours of the change in policy. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the responsible hospital leader with authority and responsibility for the management and operation of the hospital as established by the Governing Board. The CEO will ensure staff adhere to all policies and procedures.

Visitation Rights

In general, visitors are encouraged to visit the patient from 8am-8pm and are free to move about during these times in areas open to the public. In most cases, to avoid overcrowding in the patient’s room, 2 visitors are allowed to visit a patient at a time during regular visiting hours. Visitation hours may be amended as needed based on the needs of providing safe care, privacy, or security for the patients and staff of Kindred Hospital. Any applicable infection control and education policies for visitors, as well as visitation hours or limits including lengths of stay or number of visitors, will be made available upon visitation.

The hospital will allow for visitation at all times in the following circumstances unless the patient objects;

- End of life situations
- Patient is making major medical decisions regarding the patient
- Patient was living with family before being admitted to the hospital and is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
- Patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
- Patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
- Patient used to talk and interact with others but now is seldom speaking.

Furthermore, patients will have the option to designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. The hospital will allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other authorized visitation.

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Infection Control

Visitors will adhere to hospital infection control policies and procedures and will receive education on infection control practices including hand hygiene and PPE requirements upon their first visit and subsequently as needed. Should there be an increase risk to patients, staff, or visitors related to community or hospital spread of infection the hospital may implement precautions to limit further exposure. Precautions will be the same for hospital staff and visitors and could include the following;

- Symptom screening for risk of exposure or active infection
- Use of appropriate PPE
- Hand Hygiene before entering and after exiting the patient’s room
- Limitation to the number of visitors and length of time visitation is allowed

The hospital will not require visitors to provide proof of any vaccination or immunization prior to visiting the patients nor will the hospital deny visitors the right to physically touch the patients, unless the patient objects.

The Infection Control Practitioner has been delegated authority by the Governing Board to oversee all infection Control practices within the hospital and to assure that staff, vendors, and visitors adhere to the infection control policies and procedures.

Visitation policies and procedures will be submitted to the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) when applying for initial licensure, licensure renewal, or change of ownership, and make them available to review upon request at any time.



References:

1. FL SB 988, the No Patient Left Alone Act
2. H-PC 09-003 CORE: Patient Visitation Rights
3. Visitor / Vendor Sign-In Report Rev. 7/2020