



Origination 1/2/2011
Last Approved 8/25/2022
Effective 8/25/2022
Last Revised 8/25/2022
Next Review 8/24/2024

Owner [Meagan Weber: CEO](#)
Area [Hospital Wide](#)
References [SOM](#)
[Appendix W - CAH](#)

Patients' Visitation Rights

Policy Statement:

Scotland County Hospital (SCH) promotes and supports that all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges. SCH will not deny visitation privileges to patients on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability, within the facility/department's established visiting hour guidelines.

Regular daily visiting hours shall be established and posted. Visiting hours are 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Relatives or guardians and clergy, if requested by the resident or family, shall be allowed to see critically-ill residents at any time in keeping with the orders of the physician in compliance with C-1054 §485.635(f), C-1056 §485.635(f) and C-1058 §485.635(f).

Procedure:

At the time of patient's admission, or as soon as reasonably possible, SCH personnel from either outpatient registration/admission or nursing, will present this policy which will:

1. Inform each patient (or their support person, where appropriate) of his or her visitation rights, including any clinical restriction or limitation of such rights in advance of furnishing patient care whenever possible.
2. Inform each patient (or support person, where appropriate) of the right to receive visitors who he or she designates, including but not limited to a spouse, a domestic partner (including same-sex domestic partner), another family member or a friend and his or her right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time. The patient may withdraw his/her consent to receive visitors, either orally or in writing.
3. SCH will ensure that all visitors (including individual seeking to visit the patient) enjoy full and equal visitation privileges, consistent with the preferences of the patient (or, where appropriate, the patient's support person) has expressed concerning visitors. In other words, it is

permissible for the patient (or the patient's support person, where appropriate) to limit the visiting privileges of his/her visitors, including providing for more limited visiting privileges for some visitors than those for others.

4. Advise each patient that SCH feels it to be in the patient's best interest to allow the patient's health-care professional to be responsible in making clinical decisions regarding restricting or limiting visitation when the patient is undergoing a procedure or a medical intervention.
5. Advise each patient that in particular medically appropriate circumstances (for example during the flu season and public health situations/emergencies such as a pandemic these practices may be amended to reflect infection control safety concerns. Emergent situations will be handled by Infection Control Department and Administrative Leaders.) SCH may restrict the number of visitors or hours of visitation as a method of protecting other patients and SCH personnel from the contagion.

In accordance with ***The Compassionate Care Visitation Act (No Patient Left Alone Act)*** Scotland County Hospital (SCH) shall allow a patient or resident, or his or her legal guardian, to permit at least two compassionate care visitors simultaneously to have in-person contact with the patient or resident during visiting hours. Compassionate care visitation hours shall be no less than six hours daily and shall include evening, weekends, and holidays. SCH shall be permitted to place additional restrictions on children under the age of fourteen who are compassionate care visitors.

SCH will allow twenty-four-hour attendance by a compassionate care visitor when reasonably appropriate.

A compassionate care visitor may leave and return during visiting hours.

Parents with custody or unsupervised visitation rights, legal guardians, and other persons standing in loco parentis have the right to be physically present with a minor child while the child receives care at SCH.

SCH may limit:

1. The number of visitors per patient or resident at one time based on the size of the building and physical space;
2. Movement of visitors within the facility, including restricting access to operating rooms, isolation rooms or units, or other commonly restricted areas, and
3. Access of any person to a patient:
 - a. At the request of the patient or resident, or legal guardian of such;
 - b. At the request of a law enforcement agency for a person in custody;
 - c. Due to a court order;
 - d. To prevent substantial disruption to the care of the patient or resident or the operation of the facility;
 - e. During the administration of emergency care in critical situations;
 - f. If the person has measurable signs and symptoms of a transmissible infection; except that, the health care facility shall allow access through telephone or other means of telecommunication that ensure the protection of the patient or resident;

- g. If the health care facility has reasonable cause to suspect the person of being a danger or otherwise contrary to health or welfare of the patient or resident, other patients or residents; or facility staff; or
 - h. If, in the clinical judgment of the patient's or resident's attending physician, the presence of visitors would be medically or therapeutically contraindicated to the health or life of the patient or resident, and the attending physician attests to such in the patient's or resident's chart.
- 4. SCH may limit or redirect visitors of a patient or resident in a shared room to ensure the health and safety of the patients or residents in a shared room. SCH may adopt reasonable safety and security restrictions or other requirements for visitors on a case-by-case basis.
- 5. No later than January 1, 2023, the department of health and senior services shall develop informational materials for patients, residents, and their legal guardians regarding the provisions of The Compassionate Care Visitation Act. SCH shall make these informational materials accessible upon admission or registration and on the primary website of SCH, www.scotlandcountyhospital.com
- 6. A compassionate care visitor of a patient or resident of SCH may report any violation of the provisions of the Compassionate Care Visitation Act to the department of health and senior services. The department shall begin investigating any such complaint filed within thirty-six hours of receipt of the complaint. The purpose of such investigation shall be to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Compassionate Care Visitation Act.

Essential Caregivers Act of 2021

This bill requires skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, and nearby inpatient rehabilitation facilities to establish an essential caregivers program during a public health emergency.

Under the program, facilities must allow each resident to select up to two essential caregivers to provide daily living assistance, emotional support, or companionship during the emergency. Facilities must afford such caregivers 12 hours of access to residents each day (or unlimited access for end-of-life care), and caregivers must agree to follow facility protocols for staff safety. Facilities may deny access to caregivers who violate protocols, subject to certain notification requirements.

SCH will allow residents to select at least 2 caregivers, although the facility may limit in-person contact to one at a time in the event of a procedure or medical interventions or times when visitor has been exposed to a contagious disease or outbreaks.

SCH will establish an in-person contact schedule allowing for at least four hours each day and establish procedures enabling physical contact between the caregiver and resident.

SCH may require the caregiver to follow infection control and safety measures; provided that such measures are no more stringent than required for SCH employees.

Caregiver in-person contact may be restricted or revoked for caregivers who do not follow such measures.

SCH may request a suspension of in-person contact for a period not to extend seven days. The

suspension may be extended, but not for more than fourteen consecutive days in a twelve-month period or more than forty-five days in a twelve-week period.

The Department shall suspend in-person contact by essential caregivers under this act if it determines that doing so is required under federal law, including a determination that federal law requires a suspension of in-person contact by members of the resident's care team.

The provisions of this act shall not apply to those residents whose condition necessitates limited visitation for reasons unrelated to the stated reason for the declared state of emergency.

Department Specific:

Women's Center:

It is the policy of Scotland County Hospital Women's Center to promote a family-centered care during the birth experience, significant other(s) who the maternal patient determines to be supportive may be present during the childbearing experience. A significant other is defined as an adult, who the maternal patient deems to be supportive.

1. The maternal patient may designate one or two persons to remain with her throughout labor, birth and early post-partum period. Other persons may visit the patient briefly at the patient's request.
 1. Visitors may be asked to leave at the discretion of the staff as warranted by the patient's condition.
 2. Visitors not actively supporting the patient are expected to remain in the waiting room.
 3. No through traffic is permitted.
2. Father/significant other, Grandparents may visit the OB patient at any time. Siblings must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
3. During feeding time, visitors may be asked to go to the waiting room or another designated waiting area to ensure the privacy of each patient.
4. To hold the newborn good hand washing must be observed.
5. Mothers who have been dismissed with baby still a patient in the nursery may return to visit and hold and feed newborn if condition warrants. Instructions will be given for feeding and newborn care. In the event of maternal death, father, or designated person may visit.

ICU:

It is the policy of Scotland County Hospital ICU Department to control traffic and visitors in the ICU area as the situation warrants.

1. Visitors are limited to two at a time and restricted to immediate family only, unless specific circumstances deem alteration (i.e., No family, non-family support system, etc.)
2. Visiting hours are individualized around patient's condition and needs.

3. All immediate family and support systems will be oriented to the ICU environment. Including, but not limited to; use of phones, phone numbers, individualized visiting, equipment, personnel, etc.
4. No live flowers will be permitted at the bedside in ICU.
5. Children under the age of 14 will be permitted on an individual basis.

Swing Bed:

For the comfort and well-being of a SNF patient, the following policy has been established.

1. Visiting hours are flexible at the discretion of the House Supervisor, however, an attempt will be made to fit most visitors into the existing Visiting Hours Schedule (7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.). Visitors may be asked to wait in the lobby until specific nursing care or housekeeping is done for the patient.
2. A list of SNF patients who do not wish to have visitors will be kept at the Nurses' Station.
3. In consideration of the patient there will be not eating in the patient's room by visitors with the exception of having meals with the patient in their room. Visitors will need to order meals by 10:00 a.m./4:00 p.m.
4. Patients are not allowed in the hospital dining room.

Definitions:

1. Essential Caregiver – is defined as a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual selected by a resident, or the guardian or legal representative of the resident.
2. Compassionate care visitor – a patient's or resident's friend, family member, or other person requested by the patient or resident for the purpose of a compassionate care visit;
3. Compassionate care visit – a visit necessary to meet the physical or mental needs of the patient or resident, including, but not limited to:
 - a. For end-of-life situations, including making decisions regarding end-of-life care during in-person contact or communication with the compassionate care visitor;
 - b. For adjustment support or communication support, including, but not limited to, assistance with hearing and speaking;
 - c. For emotional support;
 - d. For physical support after eating or drinking issues, including weight loss or dehydration; or
 - e. For social support;
4. Health care facility – a hospital as defined in section 197.020, a long-term care facility licensed under chapter 197, or a hospice facility certified under chapter 197.

Acknowledgement of this policy is included within the SCH Registration/Admission form and posted in the Registration area. Registration/Admissions and Nursing Personnel will be oriented in the distribution of this policy.

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
P&P Committee	Jasetia Buckallew	8/25/2022
Originating Authority/CEO/ Board	Meagan Weber: PT Supervisor	8/25/2022