

Policy Name	Inpatient Unit Visitation		
Department Responsible	Not Set	Policy Number	1170
Publication Date	05/20/2022	Version Number	1

I. PURPOSE

To protect a patient’s right to have any and all visitors at their discretion while in a Gulfside Healthcare Services (GHS) Inpatient Unit and to comply with Florida Statue 408.823.

II. POLICY

Gulfside Healthcare Services (GHS) under normal operations will not limit the number of essential and non-essential visitors a patient may have or the amount of time they may spend with the patient. GHS may limit the number of visitors due to facility reaching maximum occupant load and for CDC infection transmission compliance. GHS reserves the right to suspend those visitors who have posed a safety or security threat to GHS, our staff, patients or other visitors, or have violated any GHS policy or procedure.

All visitors are also at the patient’s discretion. If a patient declares they do not wish for a particular visitor, or any visitors, to be allowed in, GHS reserves the right to deny these individuals the ability to visit the patient.

No visitor will be denied access due to vaccination status.

III. DEFINITIONS

Essential Caregiver – A visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian or other individual identified by the patient, fls. 408.823(2)(a).

IV. PROCEDURE

1. GHS will screen all visitors regardless of vaccination status for COVID-19 in inpatient care centers.
2. GHS follows the Centers for Infection and Prevention and Control (CDC) Fever recommendations for fever and symptom screening. Revisions are followed when the CDC updates recommendations.
3. Signs will be posted at the entrances to the facility advising visitors to check-in with the front desk to be screened prior to entry.
4. Visitors will be screened for:
 - a. Reporting of a positive viral test for SARS-CoV-2,
 - b. Symptoms of COVID-19, or
 - c. Meeting criteria for quarantine.
5. A point of contact designated by the organization will screen for the above before visitors proceed in the building..

6. In the event a visitor is experiencing symptoms or confirmed Covid-19, protective personal equipment such as mask and gown will be required prior to entering patient care areas. Visitors with Covid-19 and or symptoms should also observe personal distance from staff members and other visitors to decrease the risk of transmission as recommended by the CDC.
7. A nursing team member will assist with providing the personal protective equipment and educating the visitor on the appropriate use of it.