

## Harnett Health Visitor Management

Update 01.08.24

Starting Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, Harnett Health will lower the minimum age requirement for visitation to 12 years and older in all areas of the health care system.

Cape Fear Valley Health continues to require masks for all patients and visitors in the Emergency Department waiting rooms. It is recommended in all other patient care areas that all employees and visitors wear a surgical mask.

Patients are allowed up to two visitors at a time, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and visitors may come and go during those hours. All patients are allowed to have one visitor stay overnight in their room if space allows, but overnight visitors must be in the hospital before visiting hours close, and cannot leave and return after 9 p.m., until visiting hours reopen the next day. Visitors to patients who are under any isolation protocols must follow any restrictions required for that patient.

In the Emergency Department, visitors will be allowed in the waiting room. These patients may have 2 visitors at a time 24/7 unless modifications need to be made by Harnett Health Leadership.

The following exceptions and specifications are noted with this visitation policy:

- Pediatric patients: Parents/legal guardians may visit at any time. Only parents/legal guardians may add visitors to the list for pediatric patients.
- Patients who need a healthcare decision maker or require communication assistance may always have one Care Companion with them. The Care Companion may be changed during visiting hours.
- End of Life patients may have up to four visitors at a time present at bedside. These visitors may be changed out during the End-of-Life visit. In certain circumstances, the nursing supervisor may allow for compassionate exceptions to this rule for End-of-Life patients.

Even in the above situations, we kindly request visitors with symptoms of a fever or respiratory illness symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, remain home. This precautionary measure is crucial to maintaining the health and well-being of our patients, visitors, and staff.

The public's cooperation and understanding in adhering to these updated masking policies are greatly appreciated. Cape Fear Valley Health stays committed to providing a secure and supportive environment for all individuals seeking care.