

One Gonzales Healthcare Systems
Policy

Subject: Amendment Patient Visitation Rights - Under COVID-19 GHS-012
§133.51 Emergency Rule – GHS response to Covid-19

Purpose: The President of the United States declared a major disaster on March 13, 2020 due to Covid-19. Under the COVID-19 Pandemic, Patient Visitation Rights have been limited for the health, safety and wellbeing of all patient, visitors, staff, doctors and contractors.

Originating Department:

Review Date: _____	Initials: _____	Review Date: _____	Initials: _____
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Policy

Based on state and federal guidance, HHSC deems COVID-19 a health and safety risk for patients, staff and the public.

Patient visitors to Memorial Hospital are limited except for the following persons who have passed the current screening process. The screening process will be implemented by Incident Command and updated as needed. (See Current Screening Tool)

- Government personnel performing their official duties
- The attorney or other legally authorized representative of a patient when performing their official duties.
- Providers of essential services (contract doctors, contract nurses, hospice workers, other contract health care providers, SANE nurses, a single designated caregiver acting on the patient's behalf).
- A clergy member authorized by the hospital.
- Patients who are positive for COVID-19 or a Person Under Investigation will not be allowed guests.
- Family members of a patient at the end of life.
- Obstetric patients are allowed two guest at a time.
- In-patient are allowed two guests at a time.
- Clinics – guests are not allowed with the exceptions of a minor patient, or a patient incapable of making medical decisions, then one adult is allowed in with the patient.
- Out-Patient – guests are not allowed with the exceptions of an OB patient having an ultrasound, a minor patient, or a patient incapable of making medical decisions, then one adult is allowed in with the patient.
- Emergency Room patient will be allowed one guest unless the patient is a positive screen for COVID-19 or a Person Under Investigation. A minor patient,

or a patient incapable of making medical decisions, will be allowed one adult with the patient

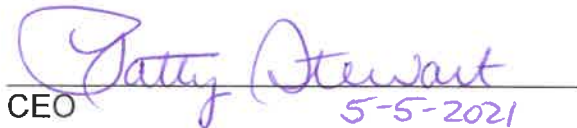
- Surgical Patients – one guest will be allowed to wait in the surgical waiting area. The Surgical Nursing staff may make an exception and allow 2 guest to wait in the surgical waiting area based on the patient's needs.

Exceptions may be limited due to staff safety, patient safety and caregiver fatigue.

A person providing critical assistance or government personnel performing their official duty must be screened and meet the criteria for entry into Gonzales Healthcare Systems. If the person does not meet criteria the person will be denied entry.

If an emergency rule is more restrictive than GHS Policy, the emergency rule will prevail so long as the emergency rule is in effect.

If an executive order or other direction is issued by the Governor of Texas, the President of the United States, or another applicable authority that is more restrictive than this the emergency rule or any minimum standard relating to GHS, GHS must comply with the executive order or other direction.


CEO
5-5-2021


Board of Directors