

Visitation - R

Policy Statement

The Good Samaritan Center permits residents to receive visitors subject to the resident's wishes and the protection of the rights of other residents in the facility.

Policy Interpretation and Implementation

1. We recognize the resident's need to maintain contact with the community in which he or she has lived or is familiar. Therefore, the residents are permitted to have visitors of their choosing at the time of their choosing.
2. The facility provides 24-hour access to individuals visiting with the consent of the resident.
3. Family members are designated as such by the resident or representative. Immediate family is not restricted to individuals related by blood, adoption, marriage or common law.
4. Visitors may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. spouses (including same-sex and transgender spouses);
 - b. domestic partners (including same-sex and transgender domestic partners);
 - c. other family members;
 - d. friends; and
 - e. a member of the clergy, chaplain, minister or faith leader.
5. All lawful marriages and spouses will be recognized for purposes of this and all other policies, regardless of any contradictory state or local laws.

Reasonable Clinical and Safety Restrictions

1. Some visitation may be subject to reasonable clinical and safety restrictions that protect the health, safety, security and/or rights of the facility's residents such as:
 - a. keeping the facility locked or secured at night with a system in place for allowing visitors approved by the resident;
 - b. denying access or providing limited and supervised access to an individual if that individual is suspected of abusing, exploiting or coercing a resident until an investigation into the allegation has been completed or has been found to be abusing, exploiting or coercing a resident;
 - c. denying access to individuals who have been found to have been committing criminal acts such as theft;
 - d. denying access to visitors who are inebriated or disruptive;
 - e. denying access or providing supervised visitation to individuals who have a history of bringing illegal substance into the facility which places residents' health and safety at risk; and/or
 - f. restrictions placed to prevent community-associated infections or communicable disease transmission to one or more residents.
 - (1) A resident's risk factors for infection (e.g., immunocompromised condition) or current health state (e.g., end-of life-care) will be considered when restricting visitors.
 - (2) In general, visitors with signs and symptoms of a transmissible infection (e.g., a visitor is febrile and exhibiting signs and symptoms of an influenza-like illness) are asked to defer visitation until no longer potentially infectious (e.g., 24 hours after resolution of fever without antipyretic medication or according to CDC guidelines and/or Suwannee county Health Department recommendations).

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Visitation During Communicable Disease Outbreak

1. The visitation policies at Good Samaritan Center may be modified during infectious disease outbreaks of pandemics in order to align with the current CMS and CDC guidelines and to offer maximum visitation. For example:
 - a. providing access to devices such as mobile phones or iPads for virtual visitation;
 - b. designating visitation areas in the facility outside of resident rooms. In the Good Samaritan Center, space for visiting is available in the lobby, the Activity Room or the Chaplain's office for residents to receive guests in reasonable comfort and privacy;
 - c. offering outdoor porch and patio visitation options;
 - d. posting infection prevention and control instructions prominently for visitors (i.e., hand hygiene, need for source control, use of PPE, cough etiquette, etc.);
 - e. ensuring access to hand hygiene and PPE supplies for visitors; and
 - f. obtaining guidance from SCDOH on reducing the risk of communicable disease transmission during visitation.
2. During an infectious disease outbreak, residents on transmission-based precautions are permitted to have visitors. Before visitation, the visitor is:
 - a. made aware of the potential risk of visiting;
 - b. instructed on the precautions necessary in order to visit the resident; and
 - c. asked to adhere to infection prevention principles (e.g., hand hygiene, cough etiquette, etc.).

Restriction of Individual Visitors

1. Visitors are not denied, restricted or limited from visiting on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability. All visitors are given full and equal visitation privileges consistent with resident preferences.
2. The Good Samaritan Center does not restrict visitors based on the request of family members of the healthcare power of attorney. If the facility is requested to deny a certain individual access to the resident based on safety or security concerns and the resident wishes to see that individual, the staff will protect the resident's safety during the visitor until any allegations are investigated.
3. Residents are permitted to visit with representatives from federal and state survey agencies, resident advocates, the state long-term care ombudsman, protection and advocacy agencies for individuals with developmental disabilities or mental illness, clergy and/or their personal physicians at any time. Space and privacy are provided for such visits.
4. The resident has the right to deny visitation at any time. If a resident chooses to withdraw consent for visitation by a particular individual, the name of that person and the date of withdrawn consent are documented in the resident's medical record.
5. The Good Samaritan Center reserves the right to limit the number of visitors in the room at one time to protect the rights of the resident sharing the room.
6. If it is determined that an illegal substance(s) has been brought into the facility by a visitor, it is immediately reported to the supervisor and the administrator. The administrator will determine whether the situation warrants a referral to law enforcement.
 - a. If law enforcement is notified, measures to protect the health and safety of all residents, visitors and staff which may include supervising the visitation until the situation is addressed or law enforcement arrives.

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- b. If items or illegal substances are in plain view and pose a risk to the resident's health and safety, the items may be confiscated by Good Samaritan Center staff. The circumstances, description of the item(s) and rationale for confiscating will be documented in the resident's record.
 - c. Good Samaritan Center staff does not conduct searches of a resident or their personal belongings unless the resident or representative agrees to the search and understands the reason for the search.
7. Incidents of any visitor's disruptive behavior will be documented in the resident's medical record or other approved form.
 8. A critically ill resident may have visitors of his/her choice at any time as long as visitation is not medically contraindicated. The rationale for medically-restricted visitation is documented in the resident's medical record.
 9. Unless otherwise permitted by the resident, visitors will be required to wait outside the room or in the lobby while the resident is receiving treatment, undergoing examinations, and/or receiving personal care.
 10. The facility reserves the right to change the location of a visit if such visit infringes upon the rights of the resident's roommate or other residents in the facility.
 11. Residents, family and/or resident representatives will be informed upon admission of their visitation rights and related policies.
 12. Inquiries concerning visitation and access to the facility are referred to the administrator or his/her designee.

References	
OBRA Regulatory Reference Numbers	483.10(f)(4) the resident has a right to receive visitors of his or her choosing at the time of his or her choosing, subject to the resident's right to deny visitation when applicable, and in a manner that does not impose on the rights of another resident.
Survey Tag Numbers	F562; F563; F564
Other References	
Related Documents	Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) – Visitors and Communal Activities
Version	2.2 (H5MAPL0934)