PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for the functioning of private duty sitters at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

POLICY STATEMENT: Agency approved private duty sitters will be supervised and monitored by the unit RN according to the policies, procedures and standards established and approved by Nursing. The unit RN is responsible for directing the patient care provided by the private duty sitter. The unit RN should make any recommendations to the private duty sitter, if needed.

EXCEPTIONS: Sitters, not registered with an agency, caring for an individual at home, may function in the hospital as private duty sitters if that individual becomes hospitalized.

DEFINITIONS: Communicator—The designated RN assuming communications role in the absence of the Clinical Coordinator.

Private Duty Sitter – Hired for, and paid by, the family or representative of the patient.

PROCEDURE: RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRIVATE DUTY PERSONNEL:

1. Private duty personnel will report to the Clinical Coordinator or Communicator on the assigned nursing unit.

2. Private duty sitters may provide basic care, such as: personal hygiene, ambulation and basic comfort measures. They will work under the direct supervision of the registered nurse.

OBTAINING PRIVATE DUTY SITTER:

1. A physician’s order will be required for private duty sitters.

2. The patient/family/representative (or nurse if unable) will contact SMH Health Care in the event a private duty sitter is ordered.

3. The patient/family/representative is responsible for arranging payment.
RESPONSIBILITY: The department director will be responsible to see that nursing personnel are aware of, and adhere to, this policy.

REFERENCES: None

AUTHOR(S): Elaine Rothberg, RN, Administrative Supervisor, Float/Per Diem

ATTACHMENT(S): None
APPROVALS:

Signatures indicate approval of the new or reviewed/revised policy

| Signature: |  |
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Committee/Sections (if applicable):
Nursing Standards & Practice 10/7/04

Vice President/Administrative Director (if applicable):

Signature: 

Name and Title: Jan Mauck, Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer

Signature: 

Name and Title: 