SARASOTA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
NURSING DEPARTMENT POLICY

| TITLE: VISITING ON THE OBSTETRICAL, NEONATAL UNIT AND MOTHER BABY UNITS | POLICY#: 126.777 (Maternal) 126.631 (Neonatal) |
| EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/82 REVISED DATE: 11/01, 3/05 |
| POLICY TYPE: DEPARTMENTAL & INTERDEPARTMENTAL DEPARTMENTS PROVIDING NURSING CARE |
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Job Title Reviewer: Directors, Women’s Services and Children’s

PURPOSE: To establish a policy for visiting on the Obstetrical, Neonatal, and Mother Baby Units.

POLICY STATEMENT: Labor and Delivery, Antepartum, Testing Room, and Triage is a locked unit.
1. In the Labor and Delivery area, each patient will be assigned four non-transferable visitor wristbands. These will be placed on up to four visitors of the patient’s choice and will allow them access to the unit during the patient’s stay in Labor and Delivery. Upon transfer to a post delivery unit, the wristbands on the visitors will no longer apply.

2. In the Antepartum area, open visitation is from 1000-2000. A support person of the mother’s choice may stay 24 hours if the patient is in a private room. Adults and the children of the patient and/or her partner may visit. A responsible adult must accompany children at all times (not including the patient).

3. In the Triage room, one visitor of the patient’s choice will be allowed in the room at a time due to room constraints and patient confidentiality.

4. In the Test room, there are no visitors allowed if more than one patient occupies the room.

In the Mother-Baby Unit (MBU) visiting will be as follows:
1. Visitation during the stay on MBU will be determined in order to provide quality care to both mother and infant. This may be decided and altered by mom and or any member of the health care team at any time. Routine visiting hours are: a. Support person of mother’s choice 24 hours in private room b. Open visitation 1100-2000

2. In semi-private rooms, the father or significant other may visit only during routine hours, in consideration of the roommate.
3. Overnight accommodations can be arranged for one Person. A private room is required for the sleepover guest. Guest must be father of the baby or other adult support person. No minor children are allowed to
sleepover.

4. In the MBU, prior to handling the baby, everyone will wash hands (or use an antiseptic foam) and forearms with soap provided in patient’s room.

5. If the delivery occurs during a non-visitation time:
   a. If mom is in a private room, visitors present at the time of delivery may visit briefly (15 minutes) in the patient’s postpartum room, but visitors may be limited in consideration of other patients.
   b. If mom is in a semi-private room, visitors will be asked to say good-bye at the entrance to the Mother Baby Unit.

6. Patients will be asked to allow only well persons to visit with them and the new infant during visiting hours, i.e., persons with colds or recent exposure to infections such as flu, diarrhea, fever, chickenpox, etc., SHOULD NOT visit. All persons who will be in contact with the infant will perform hand-washing procedures.

**In the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, visiting will be as follows:**

1. Both parents, or mother and support person (this person should remain the same throughout the infant’s stay), may visit at any time with the exception of 0700-0800 and 1900-2000.

2. Visiting will be limited to two people plus a parent/support person at the bedside at one time.

3. Additional visitors will be at the discretion of the parent or support person and must be accompanied by a parent.

4. Siblings need to be directly supervised by an adult at all times and must be screened using the “Sibling Form”. The screen results should be updated with each visit and documented either on the form itself or on CareVue. (Refer to Sarasota Memorial Hospital Policy #01.PAT.01 which addresses sibling visitors and has the “Sibling Form” form attached. must be completed.)

5. People, who have an infectious disease, cold sores, have not had chicken pox, or have recently been exposed, SHOULD NOT VISIT.

6. Upon entering the NICU, prior to handling the baby, everyone will wash hands and forearms for approximately 3 minutes.

7. Visitation will occur within the NICU unless otherwise ordered by the physician.

8. Visitors may be asked to leave during special procedures or at the discretion of the nurse in charge.

9. Visitors will be regulated by the Health Unit Coordinator at the Nurse’s Station.
10. A private room is available in the NICU area for consultations with family members.

11. Access to the NICU will be limited to hospital personnel with a specific purpose relating to patient care.

EXCEPTIONS: All exceptions will be made by the Director or designee. Exceptions can be made if extenuating circumstances exist.

DEFINITION(S):

Sibling: The children of the patient and/or her partner or patient’s sibling.

Immediate family: Siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles to the new infant.

RESPONSIBILITY: It will be the responsibility of the Directors of the Maternal and Children’s Service to see that nursing personnel on the specified units are aware of, and adhere to, this department policy.

REFERENCE(S):


Sarasota Memorial Hospital Administrative Policy. (2003.) Visitors (01.PAT.01) Sarasota, FL: Author.

REVIEWING AUTHOR(S): Diana Stark, RNC, MN, CNS, NICU Debbie Dietz, RNC, BSN, Interim Clinical Educator L&D/Antepartum. Bernie Coulombe, RN, MS, MBU

ATTACHMENT(S): None
APPROVALS:

Signatures indicate approval of the new or reviewed/revised department policy. Date

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Committee/Sections (if applicable):
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