GUARDIAN CARE NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER

LONG TERM CARE FACILITY

Visitation Policy

Policy: Policy: To ensure residents rights are honored by allowing visitation with the least restrictive means to ensure compliance with established infection control practices, local, state, and federal regulations.

Guideline: The facility will make every effort to facilitate resident visitation in a safe and organized fashion that the Administrator or Designee will oversee.

1. The facility will allow visitation for residents under current regulations. At and the direction of local and state Departments of Health, and/or Stae or Federal authorities. In extreme circumstanes, modifications to visitation may be implemented due to emergency situations or when it may effect the health and safety of residents or visitors.

2. The facility will offer visitor education such as (but not limited to): signage, visual alerts, handouts, etc., on topics such as hand hygiene, cough etiquette, use source control, COVID-19 vaccinations, etc.

3. The facility will not place a time limit on visits during regular visiting hours. Although there is no limit on the number of visitors that a resident can have at one time, visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of infection prevention, including COVID-19 and does not increase risk to other residents or infringe upon the rights of the residents in the vicinity where visitation occurs. .

4. Visitors with confirmed COVID-19 infection or compatible symptoms which may be indicative of a potential communicable disease or infection, should defer non-urgent in-person visitation until they meet the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) criteria for healthcare settings to end selfisolation. For visitors who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection, it is safest to defer non-urgent in-person visitation until the CDC recommened periods of time after the close contact was experienced if criteria described in CDC healthcare guidance is met (e.g., cannot wear source control).

5. Visitors are encouraged to perform frequent hand hygiene. In most situations, the use of alcohol-based hand rub is preferred.

6. If residents or their visitor would like to have a visit during an infection prevention or potential outbreak investigation, the visit should ideally occur in the resident's room. The resident and visitor should wear well-fitting source control, if tolerated, as indicated and physically distance, if possible, during the visit. While an infection prevention outbreak is active, movement of residents and visitors may be limited in the facility. For example, visitors should not walk around different halls of the facility. Rather, visitors should go directly to the resident's room or designated visitation area.

7. The resident has the right to have consensual physical contact with visitors as the resident chooses.

8. Residents who are on transmission-based precautions (TBP) or quarantine may continue to receive visitors if they desire. These visits should occur in the resident's room or designated area and the resident should wear a well-fitting facemask and other recommended source control as indicated, if tolerated.

9. Before visiting residents, who are under transmission based precautions or quarantine, visitors shall be made aware of the potential risk associated with visiting and the precautions necessary to visit the resident.

10. In the event the facility is experiencing an infectious disease outbreak, enhanced measures the situation may require modifications to the standard facility visitation policy and changes implemented. In the event this situation does occure, a resident may choose up to two (2) persons of their choice to be designated as an Essential Caregiver. The resident may choose to make changes to whom Essential Caregiver's are at any given time. The facility will facilitate in person visitation with the essential caregiver for at least two (2) hours daily in addition to other visitation authorized by the facility provider. An essential caregiver is not required to provide necessary care to a resident of the facility, and the facility shal not require an essential caregiver to provide such care. In certain situations, the facility may permit additional essential caregivers for a limited period of time due to urgent situation or changes in the residents condition with the approval of the facility administrator or designee unless this is in direct contradiction of requirements of local, state, or federal authorities.

A. The visitation policies and procedures required by this section must allow in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances, unless the resident, client, or patient objects:
    1. End-of-life situations.
    2. A resident, client, or patient who was living with family before being admitted to the provider's care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support.
    3. The resident, client, or patient is making one or more major medical decisions.
    4. A resident, client, or patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.

5. A resident, client, or patient needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver.
6. A resident, client, or patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
7. For hospitals, childbirth, including labor and delivery.
8.. Pediatric patients.

B. The facility may require a visitor to agree in writing to follow the provider's policies and procedures. The facility may suspend in- person visitation of a specific visitor if the visitor violates the facility's policies and procedures.
C. The facility will make the visitation policies and procedures available to the agency for review at any time, upon request.
D. The facility will make these policies and procedures easily accessible from the homepage of the facility's website.

Visitor Testing and Vaccination

CMS strongly encourages all visitors to stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations and facilities should educate and also encourage visitors to become vaccinated. Visitors are not required to be tested or vaccinated (or show proof of such) as a condition of visitation.

References:
CMS QSO-20-39-NH Nursing Home Visitation - COVID-19 (REVISED) 5/8/2023
https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf

Revised 5/20/2024