

**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL
MATERNAL/CHILD
WOMEN'S SERVICES
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

Effective Date: 5/80

Comments:

Reviewed: 3/83, 7/86, 5/92, 5/95, 4/98, 5/01, 3/02, 7/03, 6/06

Revised: 6/84, 4/89, 2/97, 12/97, 5/01, 7/03, 1/05, 4/05, 6/06,
2/07, 4/13

Policy: WWS 9454

Origin: Women's Svcs

Approved: 7/03

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VISITING HOUR GUIDELINES

SCOPE: This policy applies to Women's Services:

I. PURPOSE:

To promote and maintain family bonding, in a safe environment, free of infectious diseases for the patient, the newborn infant and the unborn fetus. To promote therapeutic rest for the patient.

II. POLICY:

- A. In order to protect the mother and newborn from infection, any visitors with obvious signs of infection may not visit.
- B. All visitors will adhere to the MCH hand washing policies.
- C. The patients and families will be informed of the visiting hour guidelines on admission
- D. LABOR AND DELIVERY
 - 1. Visiting in Labor and Delivery is permitted 24 hours per day.
 - 2. The patient should be consulted as visitors arrive. Any person the patient wants to visit should be allowed; with the understanding that visitors will be limited based on the discretion of the nurse and LIP.
 - 3. The number of support persons during a vaginal delivery will be limited based on the discretion of the nurse and LIP.
 - 4. No more than one support persons will be present in the operating room during a cesarean section.
 - 5. The Maternity area is specifically designed for family and infant bonding. Families are discouraged from bringing children under the age of 12 in to Labor and Delivery.
 - a. Children of the patient may attend the delivery only after taking a sibling class offered through Adventist Health Care patient education and plans for their attendance should be discussed with the LIP prior to delivery.
 - b. Child (ren) 15 months of age or older may, at the discretion of the nurse, visit their mother during recovery.
 - c. An adult (other than the mother's husband or coach) who can assume responsibility for the child(ren), must accompany the child at all times.
 - 6. All visitors must respect the privacy of the patient and certain clinical events that may require visitors to leave the area. The LIP, nurse or Charge Nurse, at their discretion, have the right to ask a visitor to leave.
- E. MATERNAL-CHILD
 - 1. All visitors must sign in at the nurses station
 - 2. Patients in a private room:
 - a. Father/ Support person may stay 24 hours a day
 - b. Four visitors are permitted in the room at a time
 - c. If there are more than four visitors for any one patient at the same time they can take turns visiting
 - 3. Patients in a semi-private room:
 - a. Father/Support person may stay 24 hours as long as there isn't a patient assigned to the other bed. If there is a patient assigned to the other bed they may visit between the hours of 9am-10pm.

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- b. Two visitors per patient are permitted in the room at a time.
- c. If there are more than two visitors for any one patient at the same time they can take turns visiting.
- d. Visitors are encouraged to respect the privacy of the roommate.
- 4. General Visiting Hours – 1pm to 8pm
 - a. Siblings 15 months or older may visit and must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
 - b. Children other than siblings must be at least 2 years old and be carried (not in a carrier, carseat, or stroller)
 - c. Visitors will be asked to leave the room and wait in the waiting area in the event that the doctor or nursing staff will be performing personal care for the patient to respect the privacy of the patient.
 - d. Adults and children with the following signs and symptoms of Infectious diseases may be restricted from visitation: runny nose, cough, fever, diarrhea, rash, draining wounds or eyes, or any signs of communicable disease.
- F. SPECIAL CARE NURSERY:
 - 1. Parents of Special Care Nursery babies are welcome to visit anytime. It is required that parents wear infant identification bands in order to visit their infants in the special care nursery.
 - 2. There could be times, that the nurses or doctor could ask visitors to leave the nursery or to limit visitors (i.e., during report 6:45-7:15 or special procedures.)
 - 3. Siblings 2 years and older can visit for short periods (no longer than 15 mins) and must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Siblings younger than 12 years old should be screened for recent exposure to any infectious diseases, and to be current on their immunizations. Sibling infection screen document is to be signed by parents.
 - 4. Two visitors can be at the bedside, accompanied by one with an infant identification band on.
 - 5. All visitors must follow the strict hand washing policy before any contact with the baby.