

Women's and Children's Health Program Information for the Support Person to the Birthing Unit and the Postpartum Unit

- We consider support people to be essential during childbirth, and our policy is created to maximize safety for our patients and the staff that care for them, with family and person centered care in mind.
- Everyone is screened prior to entering the hospital regarding symptoms and contact within your home and community, recent travel and vaccination status.
- If a support person does not pass screening, further discussion regarding their ability to visit must be had with management and Infection Prevention and Control prior to their entry to the hospital.
- Even if you come with your own mask, you will be asked to remove it and replace with a clean one provided upon arrival by our screening team. We have clean paper bags for the storage and protection of your personal mask.
- Patients and Support People must wear a mask at all times while in hospital. In Obstetrics, support people are also provided a face shield which they must wear at all times.
- Once in the hospital there is to be minimal "ins and outs", and you are not able to move around within the hospital. Please plan your visits or stays accordingly

Outpatient appointment, Birthing Unit - Labour assessment / pre-admission

- If the patient is coming in for assessment or treatment as an outpatient (e.g., cervical ripening, ultrasound, etc.), we **do not** allow support people as a general rule. The spaces where our patients are assessed are not supportive of appropriate social distancing, and we believe this to be a risk. If you feel that the circumstances are exceptional, and a support person is necessary, please speak to the Nurse, Doctor or Midwife providing care.

Birthing Unit - Admission.

- **One (1)** designated support person is permitted for each patient upon admission at this time.
- When a patient is admitted, the designated support person can be notified to come to the hospital. They must enter through the main entrance, be screened

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upon entry and then will be brought to a waiting area where one of the Obstetrics team members will meet them to bring them to the patient room.

- Designated support people will be documented in the patient chart and will receive a red arm band.
- For extended stays, eating must occur in designated areas in the patient room, where **strict hand hygiene**, **minimal time** with mask and faceshield removed, and **cleaning of the area** once mask and faceshield is put back on. Ask your nurse if you have questions or concerns.
- We encourage patients and support people to bring their own food if they have dietary preferences, or food allergies.

Postpartum Unit

- Once baby is delivered and post-delivery care has occurred, the patient and the support person will be moved to the postpartum unit
- Red-banded support people are welcome to stay in the postpartum patient room for the duration of patient's stay.
- If baby requires care in the Special Care Nursery, birth parent and red-banded support person are able to visit baby in the nursery (one at a time) until the time of birth parent discharge. Once the birth parent is discharged, only one designated support person is allowed in the nursery for the baby. Kelly

****for more information about visiting if your baby has an extended stay in the Special Care Nursery – please refer to the special care nursery visiting guidelines.**

Please call 519-621-2333 ext. 4300 to speak to an OB team member for updates on the patient's status ***patient's permission is required for any sharing of health information.*

Any questions or concerns regarding this guideline can be brought to the attention of the charge nurse for consideration

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