

MEMO

TO: All Staff and Physicians

FROM: Sabine Mersmann
Vice-President of Clinical & Support Services / Partnerships & Integration

Date: June 18, 2020

SUBJECT: Update to our Visitor Policy

Visitors classified as “essential” have been allowed in hospitals on compassionate grounds throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As Ontario begins to re-open, hospitals in the Champlain region, including PRH, will be gradually welcoming family caregivers/care partners (one at a time) back into our hospitals and will be continually assessing the impact of these restrictions.

Family Caregivers/Care Partners include but are not limited to those who provide:

- Assistance with meals, mobility, and personal care
- Communication assistance for patients with hearing, visual, speech, cognitive, intellectual or memory impairments
- Assistance as the designated representative for patients with disabilities
- Emotional support
- Supported decision making

The Visitor Policy (Family Caregiver/Care Partner Presence during COVID 19) has been updated and the following changes have been made:

- Family Caregiver/Care partners – can include a loved one, friend, religious/spiritual care provider, or other support person of the patient’s choosing.
- One family caregiver/care partner will be permitted at a time and must wear a mask (and any additional PPE as required).
- All family caregivers/care partners must pass the screening process prior to entry into the hospital

At this time, general visitors are still not permitted in PRH as an important measure to ensure everyone’s health and safety.

To review the policy in its entirety, please find it on Policy Medical (Family Caregiver/Care Partner Presence during COVID 19).

Going forward, additional amendments will be made to the Visitor Policy based on new guidance from Ontario Health or in order to align it with others in the region.