

WATER'S EDGE HEALTH AND REHABILITATION

TITLE: Visitation Policy and Procedures

POLICY: The Community allows residents to receive in-person visitation while living at the Community pursuant to Section 408.823, Florida Statutes; also known as the "No Patient Left Alone Act."

PURPOSE: This document is to provide residents and Community staff with guidance for in-person visitation.

PROCEDURES:

1. The Visitation Policy and Procedure will be posted to the Community's website.
2. The Community's Administrator is responsible for ensuring staff adhere to the Visitation Policy and Procedures.
3. Safety related policies and procedures will not be more stringent than those established for staff of the Community.
4. Visitors are not required to be screened, tested or vaccinated as a condition of visitation, nor show proof of vaccination or immunization status as a condition of visitation.
5. The Community allows consensual physical contact between a resident and his/her visitor.
6. The Community recognizes the resident may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. The Community will allow in-person visitation by the essential caregiver for at least two (2) hours daily in addition to any other authorized visitation. The Community will not require an essential caregiver to provide necessary care to a resident while visiting the resident. The designated essential caregiver will be documented in resident's electronic medical record and updated upon request.
7. Residents are permitted to visit with representatives from federal and state survey agencies, resident advocates, the State long-term care ombudsman, protection and advocacy agencies for individuals with developmental disabilities or mental illness, clergy and/or their personal physicians at any time.
8. Residents are allowed in-person visitation in all the following circumstances, unless the resident objects:
 - a. End-of-life situations.
 - b. The resident 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.
 - c. The resident is making one or more major medical decisions.
 - d. The resident is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died.
 - e. The resident needs cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously

provided by a family member or caregiver.

- f. The resident who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.
9. Visitors are welcome to visit at any time. General visiting hours are posted at the Community. After general visiting hours, visitors must coordinate with Community staff for access. There is no limitation on the visitation length.
10. There is no limit on the number of visitors per resident. However, the Community may limit the total number of visitors allowed in the facility at any given time based on the ability of staff to safely monitor the space used to accommodate visitors and based on adherence to the infection control protocols.
11. The Community will adhere to its infection control policy and procedures for the safety of all residents and staff. Visits are to be conducted in a manner that is consistent with infection control and prevention. Visitors who have a positive viral test for a communicable disease, symptoms of a communicable disease, or currently meet the criteria for quarantine should not enter the Community.
12. Visitors will be provided education on communicable disease signs and symptoms and the Community's infection control precautions. Visitors must follow instructions from the Charge Nurse on duty regarding facility infection control practices, use of any required PPE and visitation limitations.
13. This policy does not prohibit visits if the resident to be visited is quarantined, tested positive for a communicable disease, or showing symptoms of a communicable disease. Visitors will be made aware of the potential risk of visiting and the precautions necessary in order to visit the resident. Visits in these circumstances will require a higher level of Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE") than standard masks. PPE will be provided to the visitor and will be in accordance with the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance for healthcare workers.
14. The Community will not require visitors to agree in writing to follow the visitation policies and procedures. However, if the visitor has violated the policies and procedures, the Community may suspend in-person visitation for the specific individual.
15. Pursuant to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicare-certified skilled nursing facilities are required to comply with additional regulatory requirements for infection control of communicable diseases (including, but not limited to precautions to reduce the transmission of COVID-19). Thus, the Community will implement those additional precautions for the safety of all residents and staff at the Community.