

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

To: All Hospital Staff and Professional Staff

From: Dr. Stewart Kennedy, COVID-19 Incident Manager

Date: July 20, 2020

RE: **Updated Care Partner Guidelines**

For the protection of patients, staff, professional staff and the community, visitor and Care Partner restrictions were implemented at our Hospital. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, protocols are reviewed and updated. We are pleased to share that, beginning next week, Care Partners will be welcomed back to our Hospital, along with Essential Care Partners.

Currently, only patients who meet the qualifying criteria were permitted 1 Essential Care Partner (ECP). **Effective Wednesday, July 22, all the remaining inpatients will be permitted 1 Care Partner (CP).**

The following reflects the updated Care Partner guidelines for our Hospital:

- It must be the same CP throughout a patient's stay at the Hospital (patients cannot have different care partners from day-to-day);
- CPs are allowed to visit between 1700 and 2000 hours. Visits are limited to one visit per day;
- CPs will wear a coloured pass. ECPs will wear a white pass;
- Movement of ECPs and CPs is restricted. They are not permitted to visit common areas such as Robin's or the cafeteria.

There are also some updates regarding ECPs. The following is in effect as of July 22, 2020 (bold text indicates change):

- **Patients who have an ECP or ECPs cannot add a CP;**
- ECPs are permitted to visit between **0800-2000** and apply to the following patients:
 - a patient who is dying or very ill (for whom imminent death is anticipated or possible in the next 72 hours): maximum of four ECPs, no more than two present at a time;
 - a patient under 18 years old: please refer to Essential Care Partner Guidelines Women & Children Program for more details;
 - patients undergoing surgery: maximum of one ECP;
 - women giving birth: **see below**;
 - outpatients who require assistance to attend their appointment: maximum of one ECP if needed;
 - patients being discharged and ECP requires health teaching that cannot be provided post-discharge or virtually (e.g. suctioning, injections);
 - patients with cognitive, mental health, or behavioural issues that impact the care team's ability to provide safe care: maximum of one ECP;

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- patients with communication needs that cannot be easily addressed with existing resources and impact the care team's ability to provide safe care: maximum of one ECP;
- patients in the Intensive Care Unit: maximum of one ECP;
- patients undergoing Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) up to seven days before MAID is to occur): maximum of four ECPs, no more than two present at a time.

The following are the updated ECPs guidelines for the Women and Children's program (bold text indicates change):

- 1 ECP may be present during labour and delivery, **including in the OR during a Caesarian Section. This is subject to corporate PPE status;**
- 1 ECP is **permitted in the maternal newborn unit for the first 6 hours of life or until the end of that day's visiting hours (2000), whichever is longer;**
 - Note: Like other ECPs, this ECP may return daily between 0800-2000 until discharge.
- 1 ECP during **0800-2000** for patients in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit;
- 2 ECPs are allowed for patients in the NICU and Paediatrics, visiting 1 at a time this includes the birthing mother if she is an inpatient):
 - Multiples will be allowed the same 2 ECPs with both visiting at the same time;
 - NICU/Paediatrics reserves the right to further limit ECP access if physical distancing is unable to maintain due to high unit census;
 - 1 ECP is allowed to room overnight, including for multiples;
 - Siblings are not permitted.
- Movement of ECPs is restricted. ECPs are not permitted to visit common areas such as Robin's or the cafeteria. To ensure limited movement, meals will be provided for 1 Women & Children's ECP if they are not leaving the premises or have been approved to be in a NICU Parenting Room;
- With the exception of Labour & Delivery, all ECPs must enter via the West Entrance.

Please note:

- Masks are mandatory for all CPs and ECPs;
- Prior to Wednesday, July 22, each unit manager is to provide the West Entrance Screeners with a list of patient names and their dedicated CPs. For individuals on that list, the units will not be called when the CP arrives at the Hospital;
- Managers provide an updated list 2 times each week (early such as Monday or Tuesday and then on Thursday or Friday);
- After Wednesday July 22, the Screeners will call the unit if a new CP not on the list presents themselves for a new patient to confirm their entrance;
- A patient's CP may be transferred to another individual due to fatigue, illness, etc. In such a case, the unit manager must update the CP list and inform the first CP that the alternate CP is the only person allowed to visit until situation changes;
- Unit managers or delegate may revoke CP passes if necessary;

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- Movement of CPs is restricted to the patient's room and the direct route between it and the Hospital entrance. CPs are not permitted to visit common areas such as Robin's or the cafeteria;
- All CPs will be screened at the entrance to ensure compliance with infection control precautions;
- When CPs are visiting, the curtains around the patient should be closed;
- CPs are not permitted in the Emergency Department. As per above ECP criteria, ECPs are permitted in the Emergency Department as necessary.

Please note that further changes/adjustments to the above guidelines may be required as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. Updates will be provided as appropriate.

Our Hospital has been temporarily providing free TV and bedside telephone service for patients as a way to help pass the time when they can't visit with family. Now that Care Partners are welcome back to our Hospital, we will reintroduce fees for services, effective July 23, 2020. Unfortunately, it is not sustainable to continue to cover the costs for these services. The reinstatement of TV and telephone fees support the Hospital to direct funds to patient care. To help patients and families stay connected, tele-visitation is always an option and remains a free service. Free Tbaytel WiFi also remains available.

All Hospital COVID-19 updates are available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.