

### COVID-19 Pandemic- Essential Care Partner (ECP) Guidelines- Women & Children's Program

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients, Care Partners and the community is our utmost priority. Phases of the W&C Program guidelines will directly correspond to the corporate phases of visiting restrictions. In order to prevent and limit potential spread of the COVID-19 virus, the following guidelines will apply:

Department	Essential Care Partners (ECPs) only	Essential Care Partners (ECPs) & Care Partners (CPs)
Labour & Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients who are in labour, have the potential for a stat/urgent c-section, have suspected/confirmed fetal demise, may have 1 ECP present. This must be the same individual for the duration of hospitalization.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This excludes routine NSTs, Biophysical Profile ultrasound, Rhogam injections, other low risk obstetrical activity.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 1 ECP may be present in the OR during a Caesarian Section (subject to availability of PPE)</li> <li>• ECPs of positive/presumptive patients will <u>not</u> be permitted in the OR</li> <li>• No In + Out Activity (see restrictions on movement within the building)</li> </ul>	
Maternal Newborn	<p><b>Postpartum (Vaginal or Caesarean)</b> - 1 ECP for the first 6 hours of life only</p> <p><b>Off Service Gyne</b> - Follow corporate surgical guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 ECP day of surgery until 2000 hrs</li> <li>○ First day post-op- 1 ECP 0800 -1600 hrs</li> </ul> <p><b>Antepartum &amp; Postpartum Readmissions</b>- No ECP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Babies should <u>not</u> be admitted unless medically necessary</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No In + Out Activity (see restrictions on movement within the building)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Postpartum (Vaginal or Caesarean)</b> - 1 ECP for the first 6 hours of life or until the end of that day's visiting hours (2000 hrs), whichever is longer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Care Partner may return during corporate visiting hours, 0800-2000 but must be the same individual throughout hospitalization</li> </ul> <p><b>Off Service Gyne</b> - Follow corporate surgical guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 ECP day of surgery until 2000 hrs</li> <li>○ First day post-op- 1 ECP 0800 -2000 hrs</li> <li>○ Second day post-op- 1 Care Partner from 1700 – 2000 hrs</li> </ul> <p><b>Antepartum &amp; Postpartum Readmissions</b>- 1 Care Partner as per corporate guidelines from 1700 – 2000 hrs daily</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Babies should <u>not</u> be admitted unless medically necessary</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No In + Out Activity (see restrictions on movement within the building)</li> </ul>
NICU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1 ECP in a 24 hour period, 2 ECPs total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birthing parent when admitted will be allowed in addition to the designated ECP, <b>but only 1 person in the unit at a time</b></li> <li>Must be the same two individuals throughout the hospitalization (includes birthing mother when an admitted inpatient)</li> <li>Multiples will only be allowed the same 2 ECPs, 1 ECP per set of multiples at a time in a 24 hour period.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>ECP may rotate between the same two individuals every 24 hours</b></li> <li>ECPs must enter via the Main Entrance during entrance access times</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> NICU reserves the right to further limit ECP access if physical distancing is unable to be maintained due to high unit census</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1 ECP and 1 CP in a 24 hour period, with two hospital accesses per couple</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be the same two individuals throughout the hospitalization (includes birthing mother when an admitted inpatient)</li> <li>Multiples will only be allowed the same two individuals, 1 ECP per set of multiples at a time, can alternate in a 24 hour period</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>ECPs must alternate and may only visit one at a time, except when birthing mother is an admitted inpatient</b></li> <li>ECP may leave the unit to take care of personal needs (eg- bathroom, meal breaks, stretch breaks). Movement should follow corporate restrictions.</li> <li>ECPs may eat in the courtyards, NICU Family Lounge, L&amp;D Waiting Room</li> <li>ECPs must enter via the Main Entrance during entrance access times</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> NICU reserves the right to further limit ECP access if physical distancing is unable to be maintained due to high unit census</p>
Inpatient Paediatrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1 ECP</b></li> <li>Must be the same individual throughout the hospitalization</li> <li>May room in overnight</li> <li>One access per day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1 ECP and 1 CP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be the same two individuals throughout the hospitalization</li> <li>Must alternate and may only visit one at a time. Timing of switches may occur between 0800 – 2000 hrs. Timing of switches can be negotiated on an individual basis if required.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Multiples will only be allowed the same two individuals</li><li>○ Multiples may have both ECPs at the same time from 0800-2000hrs</li><li>● 1 ECP is allowed to room in overnight<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Multiples may only have 1 ECP overnight</li></ul></li><li>● No In + Out Activity (see restrictions on movement within the building)</li></ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Paediatrics reserves the right to further limit ECP access if physical distancing is unable to be maintained due to high unit census</p>
CAMHU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1 ECP during unit visiting hours only<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Must be the same individual throughout the hospitalization</li></ul></li></ul>	
Paediatric Outpatient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1 ECP</li><li>● <u>No siblings</u></li></ul>	

Access:

1. ECPs who pass all screening criteria, but who fail “Travel outside of Northern Ontario” having accompanied their child or pregnant partner for medical assessment or treatment, will be permitted to attend. They are required to wear a procedure mask for the duration of their stay. COVID19 testing may be considered.
2. With the exception of Labour & Delivery, all ECPs must enter via the Main Entrance between the hours of 0630-2200.
3. Individuals who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will not be eligible for entry to the hospital and will not be permitted to be an ECP in any Women & Children’s department.
4. If at any time an ECP becomes COVID symptomatic, they will be required to leave the premises and may not return until they have been medically cleared.



#### Movement:

1. Only 1 hospital access is allowed per day, per Essential Care Partner (no in and out's)
  - i. Designated ECPs who are on opioid replacement therapy will be allowed to leave if needed to access their medication or for medical appointments. Social Work may be able to support these ECPs.
2. ECP movement will follow corporate movement restrictions.
3. Meals will only be provided for 1 ECP that are remaining with an admitted in- patient.
4. ECPs should be made aware of movement restrictions and informed to come prepared with everything needed for the duration of their visit.

#### Other Considerations:

1. ECPs are required to wear masks while in hospital & while in contact with staff/professional staff.
2. ECPs who are rooming in with the patient will be subject to symptomatic screening on a daily basis by inpatient staff (eg- Paediatrics, NICU, MNB).
3. Exceptions may be considered and approved by the Manager or Administrative Coordinator.
4. Smoking parents/ ECPs are encouraged to bring their own Nicotine Replacement Therapy for stays on any of the Women & Children's Program areas. Leaves for cigarette breaks are not permitted. Alternatively, an alternate ECP who can remain with hospitalized child or patient should be considered.