To our valued patients and their families,

Our patient care philosophy depends greatly on engaging families to be part of the healing process. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), we must take extra steps to protect our patients, staff, visitors and the community. Effective immediately, we are restricting visitations within our UW Medicine hospitals. All routine visiting is being suspended until the transmission of COVID-19 is no longer a threat to our patients, staff and community.

The decision to restrict visitors was difficult and made only after careful consideration as we witness schools, houses of worship and other venues restrict gatherings to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We recognize that there are times when having a visitor or family member present is crucial. In these cases, visitors will be allowed based on the exceptions listed below. Please note in all cases a visitor will only be allowed if they do not have symptoms of respiratory infection (fever, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath). Additionally, children under the age of 16 will not be allowed except under extraordinary circumstances. Exceptions include:

- Obstetric patients may have one partner and one birth support person accompany them.
- Nursery and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) patients may have one birth parent plus one significant other who must remain in the room for the duration of the visit.
- Patients who are at the end-of-life may have 2 visitors.
- Patients with disruptive behavior, where a family member is key to their care, may have 1 visitor.
- Patients who have altered mental status or developmental delays (where caregiver provides safety) may have 1 visitor.
- Minors under the age of 18 may have one visitor, parents, or guardians.
- Patients undergoing surgery or procedures may have 1 visitor who must leave the hospital as soon as possible after the procedure/surgery.
- Patients who have an appointment at a UW Medicine hospital-based clinic, laboratory, or radiology, as well as those visiting the Emergency Department, may have 1 person with them.
- Patients who are receiving lodging services as part of their medical treatment plan are excluded from the visitor restriction policy.

Visitors allowed must stay in the patients' room the entire time of the visit. Once the visitor leaves the patient room, they must leave the medical center.

Please note that visitors will not be allowed for patients with a pending or positive COVID-19 test.
We appreciate your understanding during these uncertain times. Our goal is to protect you, your loved ones and our staff. If you have any questions, please contact the manager on your unit.

Thank you.

Lisa Brandenburg  
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