

HEALTH FACILITY ENVIRONMENT /ATTENDANTS/VISITORS POLICY

Security

- ✦ Entry and Exit should be strictly monitored
- ✦ Prevent Stray Animals – dogs, cats or birds from entering facility
- ✦ Fly proofing of windows and doors

Sign in Sheets

- ✦ Name, phone #- Visitor's Badge
- ✦ Time in and Time out (Usually not done)
- ✦ Which area of the hospital are they visiting?
- ✦ (If infectious disease area - Advice)

Attendants & Visitors

- ✦ If they are visibly coughing, looking sick-advise them not to visit hospital patient.
- ✦ They may be bringing infection into the health care facility

Policy for Visitors to Patients with MRSA

- ✦ Health care workers and visitors must wear gloves when giving any direct patient care
 - ✦ Must remove gloves and dispose in that room's container
 - ✦ Must wash hands thoroughly before leaving room
 - ✦ For certain procedures gowns must be worn to prevent soiling/contaminating their clothing
- ### TB or MRSA Policy

- ✦ If patient is secreting organism in sputum–Masks must be worn

- ✦ Visitors may be asked to wear gloves or gowns if they are helping to take care of the patient and are likely to come in contact with the patient's skin, blood, urine, wounds and other body substances
- ✦ Visitors must always wash hands before entering and leaving patient's room

Visitors to Intensive Care Units

- ✦ Allow only limited number of visitors for 10 to 15 minutes only
- ✦ No hugging, kissing or holding of hands of patient

Limitation to number of Visitors / Attendants

- ✦ Some hospitals allow only 2 visitors in a room or per patient at one time
- ✦ Children under twelve are not allowed
- ✦ Only one attendant can stay overnight to care for patient

Household contacts of Patients with open TB

- ✦ Since public health department does surveillance and contact tracing – No masks necessary
- ✦ Health department does skin tests/ X-rays, etc.

If visitors/attendants get ill after visiting patient in hospital

- ✦ Inform personal physician about hospital visit
- ✦ Visitor may have contracted patient's illness

✦ Could have contracted a nosocomial infection

Highly Infectious Disease like SARS / Bird Flu / Ebola

- ✦ No visitors allowed
- ✦ Visitors may not be allowed to leave hospital
- ✦ Hospital staff may not be allowed to leave hospital—Unless prophylaxed or vaccinated

Problems with Policy Implementation

- ✦ Lack of security staff
- ✦ Lack of single bed rooms
- ✦ Lack of sufficient water, sinks, soap, paper towels for visitor use
- ✦ Lack of sufficient disposable masks, gowns, and shoe covers – PPE's (Personal Protective Equipments).