

Policy Name:	Center for Women and Newborns Visitor Policy and Guidelines
Policy Number:	1.12.2 (formerly I-5A)
Contact:	Karen Conley RN, DNP
Sponsor:	Jackie Somerville, RN, PhD
Effective Date:	9/14
Approved By	Medical Staff Executive Committee, 8/06, 9/10, 9/14 CWN Clinical Practice Committee, 3/04 Revised: NICU Clinical Practice Committee, 3/04

Keywords: Visitors, Center for Women and Newborns

I. Purpose

The Brigham and Women's Hospital Center for Women and Newborns encourages patient and family centered care. We recognize the importance of sharing this experience with family and friends. Our goal is to provide parents with a safe and supportive birth and early parenting experience while protecting the health and security of the newborns in our care.

II. Guidelines

General Visitation Guidelines:

1. We encourage family members and friends to visit between the hours of 1pm and 9pm consistent with the rest of the organization.
2. Visitors will check in with Security at the first floor CWN lobby visitor desk to be granted access to the unit(s).
3. If a patient is unable to or chooses not to receive visitors, nursing staff will notify security.
4. After 9pm, security will contact the patient's floor to ascertain if patient is still receiving visitors.

Center for Labor and Birth:

- 1.
2. Since there are no visiting hours in the Labor, Birth, and Recovery area, friends and family members who have not been chosen by the patient to be support people during labor are asked to remain in the Connors building first floor waiting area. This will allow the chosen support people and the professional staff to pay undivided attention to the patient.
3. Children under the age of 12 are not permitted to visit in the Center for Labor and Birth, with the exception of preapproved siblings.
4. When siblings are permitted to visit during labor, one of the adult support persons must supervise and be fully responsible for them. Under no circumstances will the patient assume responsibility for visiting siblings.

Antenatal and Postpartum:

1. Visiting hours in postpartum and antenatal areas are:
 - 24 hours a day for partner/support person
 - 1 pm – 9 pm for siblings and other adults
2. Children under the age of 12 are not permitted unless they are siblings of the newborn.
3. Siblings of the newborn are welcome to visit under the following specified circumstances. Specified circumstances for sibling visits include:
 - Must be accompanied by and be under the supervision of an adult (other than the patient) at all times. It is recommended that siblings remain in patient's room during visit.
 - Children must be free of infection or exposure to communicable diseases for several days before visiting. All recommended immunizations must be current.
 - The adult responsible for siblings visiting a patient on Infection Control Precautions must check with the patient's nurse prior to entering the patient's room for special instructions.

Newborn Intensive Care Unit:

1. Parent(s) are welcomed and encouraged to spend time with their infant(s) at any time, including clinician rounds. In emergency situations or periods of extremely high activity, the RN may ask the parent(s) to step outside the unit for a brief period of time.
2. RNs will educate parents and visitors about the importance of protecting other infants and families' privacy by not discussing other infants' condition or care. Parents and visitors are requested to remain at their infant's bedside.
3. Visitors other than parents
 - Must be accompanied by a parent and may visit during the hours of 1 PM to 9 PM.
 - Children, other than siblings, must be at least 12 years old or older.
 - Siblings of infant(s) in NICU may visit with a parent during the hours of 1 PM and 9 PM. Prior to a sibling visiting the parent will be asked to fill out a questionnaire to ensure the sibling is free from infection or exposure. The parent is responsible for the behavior and safety of the visiting sibling.
 - Sibling visits should be prescheduled and limited to fifteen minutes.
4. Due to space constraints, there will be only one parent and one visitor per family at a bedside (i.e. 2 people total per family).