

PROCEDURE FOR: Visitors and Observers in the Perioperative Area

- POLICY:**
1. Visitors and observers in the Perioperative Area must comply with all mandates established by the facility and regulatory agencies. UCHC required forms are available through Public Folders in the Students-Visiting-Policies and Forms file.
 2. The physical and personal security of patients and staff members will be of the highest priority. In addition, security of the established environment, equipment, supplies, and information is also important.
 3. Visitors and observers will be kept to a minimum in patient care and support areas. Clearly visible identification will be worn by all non-family / significant other (SO) observers while in the Perioperative Area.
 4. Visitors and observers will be asked to leave should their behavior become obstructive to patient care and / or the situation changes to make the visitor's presence inappropriate.
 5. The surgeon or his/her designee' must obtain and document consent by the patient or his/her legal guardian to have observers in the operating room during the procedure. This consent will be documented on the Authorization for Medical-Surgical Procedure form HCH-127. Student observers who are present as a result of any JDH, UMG, CMHC, Dental Medicine or UCHC "School Contracts" are exempted from this requirement.
 6. All observers must report to the OR charge nurse or designee' prior to entering any operating room. Family / SO visitors are allowed in patient care areas under the supervision of staff assigned to the specific area.
 7. Health Care Industry representatives: HCI representatives will comply with the Perioperative protocol for Health Care Representatives in the Operative and Invasive Procedures Settings.
 8. Family / Significant Other Visitors
Family / SO visitors with apparent communicable diseases will not be allowed in direct patient care areas.
 - a. Preoperative, Holding Area:
Patients will be encouraged to have no more than two visitors at a time and only pending approval by nursing and anesthesiology staff working in the area. Requests for more than two visitors will be evaluated on an individual basis.
 - b. Intraoperative:
Only by authorization of anesthesiology staff will any parent/guardian in surgical attire be allowed to accompany pediatric patients into the operating room through induction of anesthesia. Family members are not otherwise allowed in the operating room to observe surgery.
 - c. Postoperative:
According to their level of recovery and the needs of other patients in the PACU, the following will be allowed:
 - Outpatients: Family and significant others are allowed in as soon as the patient has stabilized, pending approval by the nursing staff. Only two visitors per patient are allowed at one time, and no children under 12 years of age will be permitted in PACU.
 - Inpatient: Only parents/guardians of patients less than 18 years and Health Care Aides are allowed to be with patients

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in this area regularly. Other cases will be evaluated by nursing on an individual basis.

9. Non-contract / volunteer observers:

a. Adult Student in a School Sponsored Program (Internship / Affiliation / Observation / Paid / Non-Paid):

Observer must be cleared through the Dep't of Staff and Patient Education; if there is not a current contract between the student's school and John Dempsey Hospital - University of Connecticut Health Center, one must be executed and signed by both parties before the affiliation can begin. Students must complete the Pre-Affiliation Orientation Self-Learning Package and post-tests prior to their affiliation start dates, as well as the John Dempsey Hospital Self Learning Package and UConn Health Center Safety Checklist.

Other observers must be cleared through Human Resources Dep't. of Organization and Staff Development

b. Observer between 16 and 18 years of age:

Must be at least 16 years of age to be present in the Perioperative area, due to risk of exposure to BBP. Parents must complete and submit "Form A: Parent Permission Form for Observational / Affiliation Student Experience". Form A must be on file in the Office of Research Safety, MC-3930.

c. Non-contract / volunteer observers must comply with UCHC requirements, including but not necessarily limited to training in blood borne pathogens (BBP) / infection control, and proper wearing of personal protective equipment. BBP training is available through JDH Educational Services or the Office of Research Safety.

d. Health requirements and proof of compliance per HR, as outlined in Form A "Verification Of School Held Student Health Records". Written proof of compliance for non-students is via licensed physician's note.

e. Other signed documents, including but not limited to "Confidentiality Statement" and "HIPAA Awareness Training for Students" must be on record in the perioperative area for 7 years (see attachment "Nonpaid Student Procedure Guide").

f. Media will be allowed in the Perioperative area only with prior notification by Hospital Administration to the Director of Perioperative Services or his/her designee'. Members of the media will be under the supervision of the Office of Communications while on UCHC premises.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards
OR Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/85

REVISION DATE(S): 1/92, 9/97, 5/00, 6/03, 11/03, 2/08, 8/09