

SECTION: Administrative Guidelines

SUBJECT: Visitation of ALF & SNF Residents: SB 988 Requirements

PURPOSE

To establish visitation procedures within the ALF's & SNF's to ensure that the following topics are clear to staff, family and residents per the Florida Statute listed in 408.823.

- * Establish infection control & education procedures for visitors;
- * Provide personal protective equipment & other infection control protocols for visitors upon request;
- * Allow for no limits on length of visits & number of visitors;
- * Establish a clear designation of the person(s) responsible for ensuring that staff adhere to ALF & SNF procedures;
- * Define that consensual physical contact is permitted between a resident and visitors

PROCEDURE

- A. Educate all visitors to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- B. The Receptionist or designee will educate and monitor that visitors "can" utilize PPE when entering & exiting the facility. General visitors can wear PPE if desired during their visit.
- C. The **Administrator and Director of Nursing** are designated to be responsible for ensuring that staff members adhere to the established visitation and PPE guidelines.
- D. No health care facility in Florida may require a vaccine or provide their immunization record as a condition to visitation and must allow for consensual physical contact between patients and their loved ones.
- E. Visitors can review the established visitation procedures: at the facility **upon request, posted** in a visible spot in the ALF/SNF lobby, or can access the guidelines via the center **website**. Suspension of visitation can occur if the visitor violates the facility procedures for keeping residents, staff and other family members safe during visitation.
- F. Upon entrance and exit to the ALF or SNF, all visitors are asked to follow proper hand hygiene protocol.
- G. Maintain an accurate visitor log for signing in and out.
- H. Allow for visitation with residents of the ALF & SNF at **any time** (including during meal time) with **no** limit on the amount of time for each visit, and **no** limit to the **number of visitors that attend**.
- H. Additionally, if a resident or responsible party chooses to engage in **close contact**, the facility cannot deny the resident and their visitor(s) their right to make this choice.
- I. The facility will notify residents and their representatives of any changes in the facility's infectious disease outbreak status.
- J. Clean and disinfect visiting areas between visitors and maintain hand washing or sanitation stations.
- K. All residents of the ALF and SNF may designate a visitor who is a family member, friend, guardian, or other individual as an essential caregiver. In-person visitation by the **essential caregiver** for at least 2 hours daily in addition to any other visitation is permissible and cannot be revoked.

Visitation guidelines allow for in-person visitation in all of the following circumstances unless the resident/client or patient objects per SB 988:

- End of life situations,
- Resident adjustment issues or concerns to the nursing facility,
- A Resident/client/patient who was living with family before being admitted to the providers care is struggling with the change in environment and lack of in-person family support,
- A resident/client/patient is making one or more major medical decisions,
- A resident/client/patient is experiencing emotional distress or grieving the loss of a friend or family member who recently died,
- A resident/client/patient is needing cueing or encouragement to eat or drink which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver,
- A resident/client/patient who used to talk and interact with others is seldom speaking.

Leave of Absence: Current residents of the facility are permitted to leave the property once LOA procedure have been completed. During a leave of absence, the following is recommended:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Make sure the mask fits snugly against the sides of your face.
- Remember that some people without typical symptoms may be able to spread infectious diseases.
- Keeping 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Keep hand sanitizer with you and use it when you are unable to wash your hands.
- Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- If possible, visit and gather outdoors.
- Ensure high touch areas and surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, phones etc. are cleaned regularly with appropriate disinfectant.