



Nursing Service Guidelines Inpatient Behavioral Health

Title: Visitation

Responsibility: Department Directors/Lead Nurses/Detox Floor Nurses/Designees

Purpose of Guidelines: To provide a safe and therapeutic environment while maintaining privacy and confidentiality.

Procedure:

No visitation is allowed on Detox Unit unless it is part of the discharge planning/continuum of care.

1. No family/friend visitation:
 - A) All admissions are considered confidential, and no information disclosed to anyone without a signed release of information.
 - B) Phones are available for patient use to talk with family/friends.
 - C) Unit doors are closed and locked.
 - D) Patients are not allowed to leave the Detox Unit unattended.
 - E) Patients who do not follow visitation rules will be asked to leave the program.
2. Visitation by professional personnel for discharge planning/continuum of care:
 - A) All visitors must sign in on arrival and agree to keep confidential the names and situations of other patients on the unit.
 - B) All visitors are educated about items considered unsafe to the unit and will not be permitted to bring these items onto the unit.
 - C) Visitors found to bring any contraband into the detox unit will be asked to leave immediately and will not be allowed to visit again.
 - D) If any problems arise while visitors are on the unit, the Nurse Director/Lead Nurse/Designee will make every effort to resolve the issue to preserve the dignity and safety of all patients and visitors. Hospital Security will be contacted if necessary.

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Reviewed by Policy & Standard Committee: