

PATIENT RIGHTS/VISITATION

Dear Patient,

As a patient of the North Shore – LIJ Health System, you have the right to have a patient care environment that is supportive of your relationship with your family, significant other, and friends. Patient care is provided in a patient-centered atmosphere that is respectful, supportive and mindful of the important role visitors' play in your well being. This letter will help you understand the different types of people you have a right to choose who can provide support during your hospital stay. None of the following roles must be a family member. Many people appoint one person for all three roles.

Health Care Agent

This is the person who you have chosen to make decisions when you cannot do so. This person must be documented on the Health Care Proxy document.

Patient Representative

A "Patient Representative" is a person you chose to help make your healthcare decisions, carry out your rights and participate in your care. Your "Patient Representative" does not have to be a family member. If you are unable to make your own decisions, your Health Care Agent, if you appoint one and then Surrogate will take priority over the Patient Representative.

Support Person

A "Support Person" can be anyone (a family member, friend or other trusted individual) you choose to make decisions about visitation.

VISITATION GUIDELINES

Visitors

- A "Visitor" is any person, including but not limited to a spouse, domestic partner (including same sex domestic partner), another family member, a friend or other individuals the patient chooses.
- You may choose who can and cannot visit you while you are in our healthcare facility without regard to legal relationship, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.
- Your support person can help you with visitation and provide emotional support.
- You have the right to have visitors at anytime throughout your hospital stay including visits to an Emergency Department, Outpatient area, or Ambulatory Surgery.
- We may have to limit your visitors based on your health care needs. If this happens, we will explain to you why we had to limit your visitors.

Children as Visitors

- Children are welcome to visit. Children under the age of 16 will need to be supervised by an adult.
- Younger children are not restricted by age but parents are encouraged to keep the visits brief. Younger children are expected to stay with the adult who is supervising them and their behavior should be monitored by a responsible adult to ensure a safe and restful environment for the patient(s).

Reasons for limiting visiting may include, but are not limited to:

- Limits on visiting must be reasonable or due to your medical condition, your requested restrictions or limitations.
- If there are infection concerns such as patient's risk of infection.
- If you undergo care that requires aseptic technique or if you prefer privacy.
- If your visitors interfere with the care of other patients. This includes the need for rest or privacy.
- An existing court order that restricts contact.
- Visitors that are being disruptive, threatening or violent.
- If you are in a substance abuse/mental health treatment program where there is limited visiting.

If you have any questions, please speak with your nurse.