Patient Caregiver Policy:
Per the “Safer at Home” state order issued by Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, visitors remain restricted in hospitals. Exceptions or continued restrictions are set forth below. Exceptions may be allowed in situations where a Caregiver’s presence improves the patient’s safety, emotional well-being, physical care, or end-of-life experience (compassionate care).

COVID-19 & Symptomatic Covid Suspect Inpatients
• COVID-19 positive or Symptomatic Covid Suspect patients will not be allowed to have any Caregivers present at the bedside except in end-of-life situations.

Non-COVID Patients
• One competent Caregiver shall be considered in situations where his/her presence improves the patient’s safety, emotional well-being, or physical care. The one caregiver must:
  o Be designated by the patient on admission.
  o Be competent in his/her ability to improve the care and understanding of the patient.
  o Follow Universal Masking Guidelines: Caregivers should be wearing their own face covering upon arrival to the facility and must wear it at all times.
  o Agree to practice appropriate hand hygiene and limit the touching of surfaces in patient care areas.
  o Stay in the room: Caregivers are asked to remain in the patient’s room and not leave the unit or roam the hospital except for basic personal needs (ex: food, restroom).
  o Comply with entrance screening.
  o Entry will be denied to anyone who screens positive for symptoms of COVID-19 such as a temperature above 100.4, cough or shortness of breath.
  o Only one Caregiver will be allowed per patient in consideration of the need to limit unnecessary exposures.
  o Caregivers, as defined above, will be allowed to enter between 8am and 8pm unless deemed necessary by the patient care team.
  o Be age 18 or older.

Surgical/Procedural Guidance
• One Caregiver (meeting the above requirements) may accompany the patient to assist with entry into the hospital and registration only.
• The Caregiver will be contacted by hospital personnel after surgery/procedure regarding discharge procedure.

End-of-Life Guidance
• For non-COVID-19 patients in which death is reasonably anticipated within 24–48 hours, up to two Caregivers (meeting the above requirements) will be allowed at the bedside.
• For Covid Suspect/COVID-19 patients, only one caregiver will be allowed at the bedside for 1 hour
  o Caregivers will be required to follow all instructions from clinical staff related to hand washing, PPE, entry/exit, etc.

Caregiver guidelines are subject to change by management based on infection control recommendations, safety of patients, healthcare personnel and the community.

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