

<b>Special Policy Title:</b>  <b>SPECIAL CARE NURSERY VISITING GUIDELINES</b>	<b>Policy Owner:</b> MANAGER WOMEN AND CHILDREN	
	<b>Approval By:</b> WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S CLINICAL CARE TEAM INFECTION CONTROL	
	<b>Effective Date</b> JANUARY, 2015	<b>Revision Date</b>

## PURPOSE

St Thomas Elgin General Hospital is committed to working with patients and families to provide compassionate, high-quality care. We believe it is important for patients to experience the support of family and friends. However as the newborns in the Special Care Nursery are vulnerable we want to limit the number of individuals that do visit at one time and ensure visitors are low risk to spread infection.

## GUIDELINES

- Parents and siblings may come to the Special Care Nursery at any time, parents are not considered visitors.
- Visitors under the age of 18 years, other than siblings of the baby may not visit the Special Care Nursery.
- Up to date immunization records are to be shown to the charge nurse on the sibling's initial visit. This includes the varicella (chicken pox) vaccine. If the sibling has not had chicken pox or the varicella vaccine, they may not visit.
- A limit of 2 visitors at the bedside at one time. Parents may bring siblings when they visit their new baby in the Special Care Nursery but they must be supervised at all times. Additional visitors may wait in our family space just down the hall from the Special Care Nursery.
- During RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) season, which is typically November to March, siblings under 2 years of age may not visit.
- Food is allowed in the family waiting space only. A sealed water bottle is permitted in the Special Care Nursery.
- Visiting may be interrupted to provide appropriate patient care.
- Visiting will be restricted to protect the privacy rights of other patients or to maintain safety and security.
- Family members supporting a patient between the overnight hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. are asked to remain in the patient's room and advise unit staff when coming to and leaving the unit.
- Please remember to wash your hands or use hand gel sanitizer before and after visiting. If you are unable to comply with hand hygiene then you may not visit.

- To help protect the health of our patients and staff, do not visit if you are sick or have been feeling sick in the last week including but not limited to the following signs and symptoms;
  - Fever
  - Cough or influenza –like symptoms
  - Runny nose
  - Vomiting or diarrhea
  - Rash
  - Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
  
- Visiting is based on the condition, care needs, and expressed wishes of each patient in the unit. For this reason, visiting times may vary between patients and units.

## REFERENCES

London Health Sciences visiting guidelines

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (2011), Best Practices for Infection Prevention and control in Perinatology, In all Health Care Settings that Provide Obstetrical and Newborn Care.