


<b>SUBJECT:</b> Visiting Hours	
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## 1.0 Policy

Visitors are a necessary and vital aspect of a satisfactory inpatient stay, and they are welcome in the Intensive Care Unit. However, staff must maintain control over the therapeutic environment of the Intensive Care Unit in the interest of patient care.

## 2.0 Procedure

### 2.1 Visiting hours

2.1.1 Saturday to Friday 1700H - 1800H

2.1.2 Children: Children under 12 years are not allowed to visit.


2.1.3 A member of the Security staff will be present at ICU during visiting hours.

2.1.4 Visiting times may be changed according to special circumstances, particularly during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

2.1.5 Only first-degree relative are allowed to visit their patient.

2.1.6 At the end of visiting time, an announcement is made by the security guard asking visitors to leave. The security guard together with a member of the nursing staff will go around to each room to ensure that visitors leave promptly.

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## 2.2 Out of Hours Visiting:

Out of hours visiting will be allowed for the following:

### 2.2.1 Critically Ill Patients:

Critically ill patients may be allowed visitors out-of-hours at the discretions of the nursing staff in liaison with the treating consultant. The charge nurse will authorize such visits by issuing the necessary "Permission for Out of Hours Visiting Form"

### 2.2.2 RICU (Respiratory Intensive Care Unit):

Special consideration will be given for some patients who need physiotherapy, need mobilization, or moral support. Relatives in these cases will have extra visiting time from 11:00H until 12:00H.


2.2.3 The visitor may be asked by the treating team (medical or nursing staff) to leave due to the patient's medical interests, the comfort of other patients, or to enable effective management of the Intensive Care Unit(see Section 4 regarding restrictions on number of visitors).

2.2.4 The visitors should visit their patient only. They are not allowed to touch any catheter, wound, line, or body fluid.

2.2.5 After hours visitors should hold their identity cards or evidence of their relationship with the patient, and the signed Permission Form

2.2.6 Nurses can bleep security/supervisor if required.

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### 3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 3.1 Nursing

The Charge Nurse of each shift has the responsibility for the following:


- 3.1.1 To issue permission for out-of-hours visiting in liaison with the treating consultant.
- 3.1.2 Call a Security Guard to ask visitors to leave the unit who do not have permission to visit during out-of-hours.
- 3.3.3 Inform a Security Guard to remove any visitors who are noisy or causing a disturbance which may disturb the patient's care.
- 3.3.4 If the charge nurse feels there are too many visitors for a particular patient at any one time, he/she can ask the security guard to request that excess visitors leave.

#### 3.2 Security

The Security Department is responsible for the following:

- 3.2.1 Deny visitors entry out-of-hours unless they are in possession of a "Permission for out of hours Visiting Form" signed by the treating consultant and the charge nurse.

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3.2.2 Actively ensure that no children under 12 years are permitted into the unit.

3.2.3 Strictly enforce the rule that no soft drinks or food is allowed to be carried to the patients.

3.3.3 Patrol all rooms to ensure that all visitors leave the unit at the end of visiting time.

3.3.4 Carry out personal search on suspected visitors, especially those carrying large items.

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### 3.3 NUMBER OF VISITORS

4.1 Visitors to the Intensive Care Unit during normal visiting times will be restricted to two in number at any one time. The caring team will apply discretion.


## 4.0 GENERAL REGULATIONS:

4.1 Control of Infection:

Visitors to the Intensive Care Unit, particularly high infection risk areas, may be asked to take protective measures before entering the rooms, such as washing their hands before and after entering the room. This is necessary to reduce the possibility of spreading infection between patients and visitors. To reduce the possibility of spreading infection, visitors should not stay in the patient's room more than 5 minutes.

4.2 Food/Drink

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Visitors will not be allowed to supply food or soft drinks to patients.

#### 4.3 Patient's Relatives

Relatives of a patient who are a member of RMH staff should not be given special treatment, nor should they be allowed to visit out of normal visiting hours. Other permission requested by the patient/patient's relatives, such as allowing siblings to visit, will be upon the discretion of the consultant-in-charge of the patient.

#### 4.4 Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are strictly not allowed.

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