

Core brief

Daily update
(10 July 2020, 6.35pm)

Topics in this Core Brief:

- Gradual reintroduction of hospital visiting

Gradual Reintroduction of Hospital Visiting

From Monday 13th July, we will be re-introducing visiting to our hospitals.

Patients who do not have COVID-19 will be able to choose one named visitor. This designated visitor should not change unless for exceptional circumstance, for example if they become unwell.

This designated visitor is in addition to a patient's **essential** visitor if this has been agreed. Essential visits remain for –

- parents of children who are inpatients or attending an outpatient appointment
- to support someone with a mental health issue such as dementia, a learning disability or autism
- to support someone receiving end of life care.

At their first visit each designated visitor must meet the nurse in charge and will be given a letter by the nurse, which they will then need to show to security staff at the hospital entrance each time they return. The letter explains that they are a named designated visitor and have permission to access the hospital.

All arrangements for visiting must be made through the nurse in charge of the ward. Ward staff should ensure they have each designated visitor's contact details to assist with the Trace and Protect process if required.

From Monday, all visitors will also be required to wear a face covering in all areas of the hospital. On entering the site, visitors will be reminded to follow hand hygiene measures and fit their own face covering. Visitors will not be allowed into the ward without a face covering and should bring their own with them. Initially, face coverings will be made available for those individuals who do not have their own.

For visitors unable to wear a face covering for medical reasons, they should speak to the nurse in charge who will check with the local infection control team to risk assess the situation on an individual basis

Should a visitor refuse to wear a face covering, they will be informed that ward access will be denied on this occasion. If, in exceptional circumstances, a visitor does gain access to the ward without a face covering, the requirement should be explained by a senior member of staff and the individual must be asked to leave.

The recommended physical distance should be maintained wherever possible between visitor and patient, even if they have previously been in the same household.

Visiting restrictions continue for COVID-19 patients who are restricted to essential visits only.

It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.
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