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<b>Policy: Hospice House Visitation</b>	<b>Approved By:</b> <b>Chief Compliance Officer</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b> 04/18/2023	

*This Policy applies to all Hospice affiliates, associates, and subsidiaries of Chapters Health System.*

## **POLICY**

It is the policy of the above Organization(s) to ensure loved ones are allowed in-person visits of patients in any of our freestanding hospice facilities or inpatient units. The Manager of the freestanding hospice facility or inpatient unit is responsible for ensuring adherence to this policy.

## **PROCEDURE**

1. There is no current restriction on the number of visitors, length of time the visitor may spend with a patient, or the consensual physical contact between a visitor and patient.
2. Visitors will be screened for exposures or symptoms and temperature checked at each and every entry even if on the same day. No visitor will be required to provide proof of vaccination or immunization status.
  - a. Any visitor who screens positive or has a known positive will be denied entry.
3. All visitors will receive education on infection control protocols related to proper handwashing, social distancing, and precautions to prevent the spread of COVID.
4. Visitors under 18 years of age will be allowed at the discretion of the family. Those older than two years of age must be wearing a mask.
5. Visitors are encouraged to use phone calls, video chats (FaceTime, Skype) or other messaging to communicate as much as possible and share updates.
6. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is determined based on the COVID status of the patient and the number of visitors in the patient room outlined below.

### **Positive or Positive Screened Patients**

1. All visitors will need to remain in the patient's room and may not congregate in common areas of the facility.
2. Visitors will be required to wear a surgical mask, eye protection, gown, and gloves.
3. Visitors are educated on the need to self-quarantine after contact with a positive patient.

### **Negative or Negative Screened Patients**

1. All visitors will need to wear a face mask while entering/leaving the building or being in any common area of the facility.
2. While in any common area, social distance should be maintained by all visitors.
3. While in the patient room, the following guidelines should be followed:

- a. 4 or fewer visitors must social distance but the face mask is optional.
- b. 5 or more visitors must wear facemasks in the patient room as social distancing may not be feasible.