

# Visiting and Other Policies for the Pediatric Unit and the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

## Sinai Hospital of Baltimore

Our goal is to provide your child with the best care possible in a safe and family centered environment. Family Centered Care means that we are all in this together. We recognize the importance of family and friends coming to visit our patients and the support these loved ones offer to our families. We encourage their presence at the bedside.

We depend on our patients and their families to be partners with us in our efforts to treat and heal. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to further improve this relationship or enhance your comfort during your stay.

We do have some guidelines that we ask you to follow. **Please keep in mind that the nurse may ask visitors to leave at any time based on the needs of the patient.**

### PARENTS, PARTNERS IN CARE, AND OTHER ADULT VISITORS

You will be asked to provide a list of adults (Partners in Care) who may be at the bedside when you are not and with whom medical information can be shared. These individuals should be of comfort to your child and be able to relieve you when needed. The care team and security staff will refer to this list, and it can be updated at any time.

Parents and Partners in Care are welcome onto the unit 24 hours a day, with accommodations made for two to sleep at the bedside overnight. We ask that there be a maximum of four individuals at the bedside at a time and that at least one of those individuals be a parent/guardian or partner in care.

Other adult visitors are welcome between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Other visitors will not be permitted unless a parent/guardian or partner in care is present at the bedside. Anyone older than 18 years will be required to show ID prior to visiting a child.

We strongly encourage families to provide direct care for their children during their hospitalization. This may include holding, feeding, bathing, and assisting with bathroom trips as the child's condition allows. For the comfort of the child, nursing staff may ask visitors to leave while the family and nursing staff are providing direct care or if the child appears to need to rest.

The safety of your child is extremely important to us. The Pediatric Unit and PICU are locked units that require all visitors to show badges prior to entering. Parents, Partners in Care, and all visitors will be greeted at the Security desk on the first floor of the Children's Hospital at Sinai Hospital. Here you will present ID, provide the name of the child you are visiting, and explain your relationship to that child. Badges will be issued at this desk and must be visible at all times while on the pediatric units.

### SIBLINGS AND OTHER PEDIATRIC VISITORS

Children are often a source of laughter and smiles, especially to other children. We welcome siblings of all ages and other children older than 4 years to visit between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Children who are visiting must be accompanied by an adult at all times and are expected to be with the patient, whether that is in their room or the playroom. For patients in the PICU, please consult the care team prior to bringing children to visit.

Due to the equipment and the severity of the illnesses in the PICU, visiting children may need to be prepared for the things that they will see and the fears that they may have.

## PROTECTING YOUR CHILD: HAND WASHING AND LIMITING CONTACT WITH SICK VISITORS

In order to protect our patients and their families, it is very important that visitors wash their hands before entering and before leaving the patient's room. If additional precautions are necessary, signs will be posted on the patient's door that explain the additional steps. Feel free to speak to your child's care team if you have any questions about infection control.

If you feel sick or believe you may be getting sick, please consider staying home. Let your family and friends know that they shouldn't visit if they are sick. Adults and children who have respiratory conditions or symptoms of illness are not permitted to visit and may be asked to leave.

## SAFEGUARDING YOUR VALUABLES

It is important that you keep all valuables on your person or in the locked safe provided in your child's room. The hospital is not responsible for lost, stolen, or forgotten items. Please ask your child's care team if you have questions about using the safe in your room.