
Changes to our visiting policy

25 March 2020

This will enable us to take all necessary precautions to protect our patients and staff and is in line with actions taken by other hospitals across the country.

From 25 March 2020 we are stopping ALL visits to the hospital except in the following circumstances:

Children

Only one parent will be allowed to be with a child (under 18) at any one time.

Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) – one parent will be allowed to be with a child (under 18) at any one time

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) - One parent can visit each day, for 2 hours, at a designated morning, afternoon or evening slot. Parents should phone the room in the morning / the day before, to arrange their slot for the day.

Maternity

No partners are to attend antenatal appointments, fetal and maternal medicine or ultrasound scans.

A birthing person may be accompanied by one named birthing partner only during labour **and the immediate post birth period (up to 2 hours)**

All other visiting will stop - this is to include all inpatient areas, including the antenatal and postnatal ward.

Specific caring roles

In cases where carers are needed to ensure the safe care of a patient on the ward (such as patients who have dementia, delirium or learning disabilities) the decision to admit one carer

will be authorised by the nurse in charge/ ward leader and will be initially restricted to one hour. The ability to stay longer will be made at the discretion of the ward manager.

Anyone who falls into this category must wear their carer's passport (ID badge) which is available on the wards.

A&E

If a person needs to attend the emergency department, only one person will be allowed to accompany them if absolutely essential (for example a child or an individual who needs a carer).

Intensive care and end of life care

Additional visitor restrictions are in place for our intensive care units and for patients receiving end of life care. Please visit [here](#)

Any members of the public visiting the hospital will need to use a buzzer at the entrance and will be asked by security why they wish to enter.

If you have a new consistent cough or high temperature (of 37.8 degrees centigrade or higher) then please do not visit our hospitals. You should, as stated in NHS and Public Health England guidance, self-isolate at home for seven days.

Everyone is being reminded to follow Public Health England advice to:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

More information can be found on the NHS website [here](#).

We will continue to review our visiting policy as the situation regarding COVID-19 develops.