

Policy on escorts/visitors for patients having surgery

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have temporary policies in place in order to keep everyone safe. This includes policies for those who are bringing patients in for surgery. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

- The person bringing the patient in for surgery should drop them off in the lobby of the building where the surgery is taking place. **We are not allowing anyone to go with them to the preoperative area or waiting room**, unless special assistance is needed (see below).
- If the patient requires **special assistance**:
 - **Examples of special assistance** are patients who need help moving or communicating; other circumstances may apply on a case-by-case basis.
 - One adult escort for special assistance is allowed. Escorts will be **screened in the lobby** for risk of COVID-19. Those who do not pass the screen may not enter the facility. Those who do pass will be given a **visitor's badge**. This badge, plus a **hospital-provided mask**, must be worn at all times.
 - While they are in the building, escorts should **clean hands frequently** and maintain **social distancing** – staying at least 6 feet away from others.
 - Escorts may bring the patient to the waiting area. They may stay with the patient until he or she is brought into the pre-operative area. Escorts are then asked to **leave the hospital**. Due to space constraints and our need to maintain **social distancing**, we cannot allow escorts to wait in the waiting rooms.
- There are **no visitors allowed in the recovery room**. The **care team will be in touch** with a designated contact (family member or other support person) throughout the patient's stay. Please be sure we have the **correct contact information**.
- If the patient is **going home the same day**, we will contact the person picking them up to provide details about how to meet the patient and any discharge instructions.
- If the **patient is admitted** after surgery, regular hospital visiting policies will apply. Visits may be restricted or prohibited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your care team can provide the most current information.