Support Person/Caregiver Guidelines
Effective July 6, 2020

Our first priority at Huntsville Hospital is always the health and safety of our patients, your families and our staff. We understand that the current environment has created unexpected challenges for all of us. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we seek to deliver safe, quality care to you and your loved ones.

- All support persons/caregivers must be 16 years of age and older.
- All support persons/caregivers will be screened for fever/temperature.
- Anyone exhibiting symptoms of illness will not be allowed in our facility.
- All support persons/caregivers must wear a mask or appropriate face covering, must observe social distancing and must sanitize their hands frequently.

Password protection
Upon admission, the patient will provide a password so that communication can take place between the hospital staff and family members. This password is used for identification during the hospitalization.

A point of contact (family member or caregiver age 16 and over) and a support plan are established upon admission. The point of contact will be communicated with, at a minimum of once daily, if desired.

For non COVID-19 patients, one (1) caregiver is allowed if the patient’s condition requires this support. Examples include pediatrics, maternity, dementia, or end of life care.

End-of-life care. One to 2 persons are allowed to support the patient during end-of-life care. If supporting a COVID-19 patient, thorough education on risk and Personal Protective Equipment is required.

Supporting a pediatric patient
If you are supporting a patient in the Pediatrics Unit, Pediatric ICU, and Pediatric Emergency Department or in the Neonatal ICU, please observe the following guidelines:

- All persons are screened at the front entrance of Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children.
- For non Covid-19 pediatric patients, two (2) parents/caregivers are able to support the child with only one (1) person at the bedside.
- Pediatric patients having surgery may be escorted with their parents into Pre-op, return to their vehicle for the procedure, and then called back to recovery when the surgery is completed.

Supporting a patient in Mother-Baby, Labor & Delivery, Antepartum & the OB Emergency Department

- All persons are screened at the front entrance of Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children.
- For Non Covid-19 patients, one (1) support person is allowed per patient.

*Staff reserves the right to restrict support person/caregiver opportunity to enter a unit if non-compliance of the above criteria persists. In addition, staff shall be able to adjust guidelines to accommodate for compassionate care and end of life situations.