

**Information Governance Department**  
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Ref: FOI/2023/9070

Date Received: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Response Due: 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You asked:

- 1. Did your Trust alter or update its visitor policy in response to Covid-19, yes or no?**
  - a. If yes, what changes were introduced?**

Yes. Visiting paused and modified for period during the Pandemic, as directed by National guidance and Policy.

- b. If yes, are any of those policies still in place?**
  - i. If yes, which of those policies are still in place?**

No. Visiting Policy revised during the Pandemic.  
Current Policy dated 8 September 2022.  
Due for review: September 2024

- 2. Does the Trust currently have any visitation policies that:**

- a. Would prevent a patient from receiving a visitor?**

No. With the exception of, specific advice/ guidance provided during an Outbreak of infection situation, when visiting may be paused or amended in line with an identified risk. Exception End of Life/ Palliative care, individual need basis applied, support by decision tree.

Current policy also refers to at section 4.5: *Visitors are requested not to visit if they are feeling unwell or it is thought they pose an infection risk to others (see Section 5)*

- i. If yes, in what wards or circumstances does this apply?**

N/A

**ii. If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?**

N/A

**b. Set a restriction on the number of different people able to visit a patient during their stay**

See Information added included below:

- i. If yes, in what wards or circumstances would the number of different people visiting a patient be restricted?**
- ii. If yes, how many different people do these restrictions permit as visitors?**
- iii. If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?**

Yes

Current Policy: In-patient / Departmental Visiting Policy.

Author: Head of Patient Experience & Engagement

4.1 Family and friends are encouraged to visit patients during ward visiting times after consultation with Ward staff.

4.2 Visiting times will be clearly displayed at entrances to the wards/departments: these should support and allow protected mealtimes for patients. Alternative arrangements to these times can be arranged with the ward Leader/nurse in charge in extenuating circumstances.

4.3 There are two visitors per patient permitted to visit at any one time.

4.7 Children under the age of 16 years will not be permitted to visit wards unless accompanied by an adult.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Rabina Tindale  
Chief Nurse & DIPC

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Helpline number: 0303 123 111