

31 August 2023

Information Rights & Compliance Team
99 Waverley Road
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL3 5TL

Tel: 01727 804227
Email: Hpft.foi@nhs.net

Our Ref: FOI/04786

Thank you for your request concerning the Trust's visitation policies.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

1. Did your Trust alter or update its visitor policy in response to Covid-19, yes or no?

Yes

a. If yes, what changes were introduced?

- Updated to include NHS E guidance for supporting compassionate visiting arrangements for those receiving end of life care
- Updated to reflect national guidance on visiting issued on 5th June 2020
- Added a line with regard to visitors wearing PPE
- Added information in relation to LD&F specific issues. Ensured that guidance is in line with letter from NHS England dated 22nd September 2020
- Updated to include national guidance on visiting issued on 13th Oct 2020
- Updated to include new version of Visiting Guidance Adult Healthcare Settings Trigger Tool issued on 3rd Nov 2020
- Updated to include new tier rules and updated Trigger Tool issued on 22 Dec 2020
- Updated to include NHSE/I Guidance and National Lockdown restrictions
- Updated to include 'Visiting healthcare inpatient settings during the COVID-19 pandemic: principles
- Updated in line with national Living with COVID-19 - Visiting healthcare inpatient settings: principles 8 March 2022, Version 4

b. If yes, are any of those policies still in place?

No

i. If yes, which of those policies are still in place?

Not applicable.



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

- a. Would prevent a patient from receiving a visitor?**
 - i. If yes, in what wards or circumstances does this apply?**
 - ii. If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?**

Apart from the restrictions during Covid we do not have any visiting restrictions but we do have protective meal times on our wards and this has always been the case.

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

We have visiting guidance in our operational policies but no specific visiting policy, the guidance does not prevent patients from having visitors. We do not limit the amount of visitors but if a large family visit we look to facilitate this in an area of the ward that will not impact on other service users.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

Sue Smith

**Sue Smith
Information Rights Officer**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

