

Mount Sinai St. Luke's Mount Sinai Roosevelt New York, New York	Subject: Patient Visitation Rights No: A3-105
Originating Department: Administration Contact Person: Director, Patient Relations Reference: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) CoP, Final Rule 42 CFR Part 482	EFFECTIVE: January 2011 REVIEWED: June 2014 July 2015 REVISED: October 2015 page 1 of 2

Mount Sinai St. Luke's (MSSL) and Mount Sinai Roosevelt (MSR) recognize that visits by a family member, significant other, friend, or other designated support person play an important role in the well-being of our patients and serve as great sources of comfort and support.

During an inpatient stay or outpatient visit, a patient has the right to:

- consent to receive visitors he/she has designated, either orally or in writing, including, but not limited to, a spouse, a domestic partner, another family member or a friend,
- receive the designated visitor,
- withdraw or deny his/her consent to receive specific visitors at any time, either orally or in writing.

A patient may designate a support person throughout the course of his/her stay or outpatient visit. The support person may exercise the patient's visitation rights on his/her behalf if the patient is unable to do so. The support person is an adult, chosen by the patient, who may but need not be an individual legally responsible for making medical decisions on the patient's behalf. In the event that a patient has both a representative and a support person who are not the same individual, and they disagree on who should be allowed to visit the patient, decisions will be deferred to the patient's representative.

Visiting Guidelines

Generally, MSSL and MSR encourages that visits take place as noted below by area of specialty. Clinical staff may determine that visitation may not be appropriate given the patient's medical condition or that visitation should be restricted in certain circumstances. Staff will work to accommodate an individual's visitation needs while ensuring that the care and safety of the individual patient and fellow patients are not compromised.

General Medical/Surgical Units - 9:00AM to 9:00PM

Critical Care Units – No restrictions

Maternal And Infant Care Unit – Flexible hours for fathers and support persons. Other may visit 11:00AM to 8:30 PM.

General visiting guidelines include the following:

1. No more than two visitors are recommended per patient bedside. One visitor is allowed per patient in the Emergency Department.
2. Children may visit hospitalized patients if there is an expressed need on the part of the patient and the child. Prior arrangements should be made with health care providers when possible. Children must be accompanied by an adult visitor as adult supervision of the child (exclusive of the patient) is required at all times.

<p align="center">Mount Sinai St. Luke's Mount Sinai Roosevelt New York, New York</p>	<p>Subject: Patient Visitation Rights</p> <p>No: A3-105</p>
<p>Originating Department: Administration Contact Person: Director, Patient Relations Reference: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) CoP, Final Rule 42 CFR Part 482</p>	<p>EFFECTIVE: January 2011 REVIEWED: June 2014 July 2015 REVISED: October 2015</p> <p>page 2 of 2</p>

3. Decisions regarding overnight bedside visiting are at the discretion of the nursing unit to protect the privacy and comfort of all patients. Bedside sleeping arrangements for visitors may only be available in private rooms.
4. At least one parent/guardian shall be allowed to remain with a pediatric patient at all times to the extent possible given the patient's health and safety.
5. Family, significant others, and friends requesting visits before or after general visiting hours must be authorized by the unit before they may access the unit.
6. Clinical staff or Security may restrict or limit visitors when:
 - a. visitors exhibit signs or symptoms of infection (e.g. coughing, runny nose, fever, chills, etc.);
 - b. visitors interfere with the care of other patients;
 - c. the patient or patient's roommate(s) need(s) rest or privacy;
 - d. the hospital is aware that there is an existing court order restricting contact between the patient and the visitor;
 - e. visitors engage in disruptive, threatening, or violent behavior;
 - f. the patient is undergoing care interventions.

In the event of a community-wide outbreak, natural disaster or other emergencies, MSSL and MSR reserve the right to restrict any visitations. Different rules may apply to locked Psychiatry units.

Notice of Visitation Rights

Prior to care being provided, or as soon as possible, the Patient Admission Packet containing required written notice of visitation rights will be provided to the patient and the patient's support person, if appropriate. A patient's incapacitation will not interfere with the patient's visitation rights.

Documentation

Nursing will document in the medical record that the patient or, if appropriate, the patient's support person, was provided the Patient Admission Packet containing the required notice of visitation rights. If MSSL and MSR refuse to treat an individual as the patient's support person with respect to the above visitation guidelines, this refusal will be documented in the medical record, along with the specific basis for the refusal.

Education

Staff members who play a role in facilitating or controlling visitor access will be trained to implement the visitation policy and procedure and avoid unnecessary restrictions or limitations on visitation rights.