



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, 673D AIR BASE WING
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA**

29 Oct 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR PERINATAL SERVICES UNIT PATIENTS

FROM: SGIB/CC

SUBJECT: Visitation Policy for Children

1. The 673 Inpatient Operations Squadron, Perinatal Services Flight has established a goal to offering family-centered care. By including children and siblings throughout the birthing process demonstrates our commitment in reaching this goal. In order to allow children to witness a sibling's birth and to visit following delivery, several guidelines must be followed in order to maintain patient safety and infection control standards.

2. Visitation on Labor & Delivery

A. All siblings and children visitation is at the discretion of the nursing and medical staff. Siblings may visit mom while she is in Labor & Delivery or the Perinatal Unit. Only siblings will be allowed within the L&D unit.

- Children must be free of illness including a runny nose, cough, fever >100.4, diarrhea and vomiting within the last 3 days. Immunizations must be current.
- Children under the age of 10 must have a parental/guardian present for direct supervision of the child/children at all times.
- There is no age limit for siblings visiting mom.
- There is no enforced "visiting hours" unless the child/children become disruptive to mom or other patients.

B. Siblings may be present for delivery if the following criteria are met:

- Child/children are >5 years old. If a child is less than 5 years old, it must be predetermined and approved by both the family and staff that the child is capable of understanding the process and mother's temporary status.
- Child/children must have an attendant/escort to supervise them at all times. The child's escort cannot be the same person as the mother's support person. In the event the child is required to be removed from the delivery room, the child's escort will be asked to take the child to the waiting room. Children will not be allowed in the operating room at anytime. Children may wait in the L&D room with the adult escort.

3. Visitation on Perinatal Unit (PNU)

- No visitors under the age of **13** are allowed in the room unless it is a sibling. Visitors must be free of any signs/symptoms of infection and have not had a recent exposure to infectious illness such as chicken pox.
- Siblings must be supervised by a visiting adult at all times. The sibling will not be left in the care of the postpartum mother. Siblings are not permitted to sit on the hospital beds.
- PNU cannot accommodate overnight stays for children, regardless of age. Visiting hours on PNU are 1000-2000 hours. The nursing staff has the authority to extend visiting hours, deny visitation, or can request removal of visitors off the unit.

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