



Birthing Center Policies

POLICY NUMBER: OB-046	EFFECTIVE DATE: Unknown
SUBJECT: Visitations and Traffic Control in the Birthing Center	REVIEWED DATE: 01-2003
APPROVAL: Birthing Center	REVISED DATE: 02-20-2012
SCOPE: Birthing Center	

- I. **PURPOSE:** To promote family-centered care for birthing center patients, while maintaining safety and infection control.

- II. **POLICY:** Visiting regulations will be enforced in order to provide a safe and secure environment, as well as, controlling undue traffic (refer to Infant Safe/Security Policy OB.68).

- III. **PROCEDURE:**
 - A. Visiting during labor: No children under the age of 12 will be allowed in the room during labor. Patient may ambulate to the waiting room during the early stages of labor to visit with family or friends, unless ordered by physician.
 - B. Visiting during the post-partum period shall be at the discretion of the birthing center nursing staff, patient, and physician. Visitors may be of any age. The mother shall have control over who is allowed to touch and/or hold her baby. Visitors will be instructed to wash their hands thoroughly with soap prior to contact with the newborn. Visitors are encouraged from 11:30 am to 8:30 pm. All visitors with the exception of the designated significant other will be asked to exit the department at that time.
 - C. Post-anesthesia recovery: Patients recovering post-Cesarean section are to recover in labor/delivery area. No other visitors will be allowed with the exception of the designated significant other until the patient has met recovery criteria for discharge from such area.
 - D. Parents are allowed in the nursery. They must be instructed to wash their hands prior to handling the newborn.
 - E. There are three entrances/exits to the birthing center, all which are secured with alarm systems to prevent a newborn abduction. Newborns transferred from the nursery to a patient's room will always be via bassinet (refer to Abduction of Infant, policy OB.007).
 - F. Patients are allowed to ambulate to the elevators and on first and ground floors if their condition is deemed safe. Patients will be instructed not to enter other patients' rooms for infection control purposes.
 - G. The visiting policy will be explained to the patient upon admission.
 - H. Document in the electronic medical record.

- IV. **REFERENCES:** None.

V. COLLABORATED WITH: None.

VI. ATTACHMENTS: None.

Birthing Center Nurse Director

Assistant Administrator – Patient Care Services