I. **Purpose:**

Visitor guidelines were developed to enhance the safety and security of our patients, newborns, staff, and visitors, while on labor and delivery.

II. **Policy:**

This policy outlines visitation guidelines for visitors to patients on the labor and delivery unit. Labor and delivery staff are responsible for educating patients and visitors regarding the unit specific visitation policy and ensuring that patients and visitors are compliant with the policy.
III. **Specific Information:**

A. For the safety and security of our patients, newborns, staff, and visitors, patients may have up to 4 visitors in the LDR rooms at a time. In the 4 bed triage area of 4MSC, patients will be allowed up to 2 visitors at a time.

B. The patient will be given 4 visitor bracelets upon admission.
   1. The patient can give the visitor bracelets to up to 4 visitors of their choice.
   2. Visitors wearing one of the visitor bracelets should go to the labor and delivery check-in desk for admission to the unit.
   3. Bracelets may be exchanged between visitors, however no one will be allowed into the unit without a bracelet.

C. Only the patient’s children or children over the age of 12 will be allowed to visit.
   1. Children must be accompanied by an adult, other than the patient, at all times.
   2. Children must also be wearing one of the 4 visitor bracelets.
   3. Children should not be left alone in waiting areas.

D. One visitor may accompany the patient to the operating room, unless general anesthesia is anticipated.
   1. In cases in which the patient is given general anesthesia, no visitors will be allowed into the operating room.

E. To ensure a secure unit, visitors should refrain from excessive amounts of traveling into and out of the unit.

F. Visitors not in a patient room are to wait in designated waiting areas.
   1. Visitors will not be allowed to wait in the hallways.
   2. Staff will direct any visitors waiting in the hallway to the labor and delivery waiting area.

G. Family members and visitors should be discouraged from using patient or staff restrooms. Visitor restrooms are found on either side of the 4th floor elevators.
H. Any family or visitor who has experienced fever/chills, sore throat, cough, vomiting, or diarrhea in the previous 48 hours is prohibited from visiting. Refer to policy Visitation Guidelines.

I. Visitors are asked to wash their hands upon entering and leaving the patient room. Hand sanitizer is provided at the door of each room.

J. The labor and delivery staff reserve the right to override the visitor policy as deemed necessary for the safety of our patients and our commitment to providing excellent patient care.

IV. References:

OP 10-50.02 Visitation Guidelines

V. Contributors:

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VI. Endorsements:

Unit Board September 2010
OB Patient Care Committee