Visitors and External Contractors to the Perioperative Setting

A patient’s right to privacy and dignity is supported at all times. Consent is obtained for the presence of any visitors and or external contractors during the patient’s surgical care pathway. A policy is in place for the management of visitors, external contractors, work experience personnel, students, staff and any others to the perioperative setting.

A patient has the right to:

- refuse the presence of visitors
- confidentiality
- be informed of why a visitor will be in attendance
- give or withdraw consent
- have their decisions respected

A written policy, which all staff should be aware of, should state the correct protocol and risk assessment process for visitors wishing to visit the perioperative environment; the number of visitors should be limited and have a specific purpose for their presence.

The recommendations included on this poster are based on those published in Standards and Recommendations for Safe Perioperative Practice 2016.
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Any objection should be documented in the patient’s notes or theatre register.

Visitors

- Visitors must obtain permission before access is granted
- On arrival report to the appointed person
- The number of visitors should be kept to a minimum in line with infection prevention and control measures and to minimise the effect of noise and other disruptions
- Visitors who offer definite support or have a genuine educational need should be allowed and facilitated within the perioperative environment.

Visitors on longer placements require:
- An induction programme
- Supervision
- Mentoring

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Theatre manager/appointed person

Control the mechanism to:
- Authorise
- Monitor
- Document arrival and departure
- Provide appropriate theatre attire
- Provide clear identification (identity badge)
- Ensure awareness of perioperative etiquette and risk management precautions
- Inform visitor(s) of control boundaries within the clinical environment
- Ensure participation in five steps to safer surgery process
- Chaperoned by assigned staff member at all times
- Ensure presence is recorded in the theatre register
- Confirm the procedure to follow is understood in the event that the visitor(s) feels unwell
- Confidentiality and patient data is securely and appropriately managed
- Professional qualifications and health status endorsed prior to visit for ALL medical/nursing/technical personnel who are NOT designated employees of the hospital
- Ensure procedure for visitors is outlined as part of the departmental/organisational Health and Safety Policy

Security of persons

Patients accompanied under police custody
- Attendance of officers has to be given special consideration
- Local policy to provide instruction and guidance on the admission and management of such patients

Medical device representatives

All medical device representatives attend a theatre access course.
- Are aware and informed on etiquette ie:
  - patient consent
  - confidentiality
  - role identification and purpose within theatre setting
  - tasks and professional boundaries
- Principles of adherence in the perioperative setting
- Employers of company representatives to enable required OHC in line with good risk management strategy
- Have appropriate medical indemnity

Please refer to Standards and Recommendations for Safe Perioperative Practice 2016 for additional supporting information.