



Winchester  
District  
Memorial  
Hospital

## Our Visiting Hours – *An Open Door Approach*

Winchester District Memorial Hospital (WDMH) offers open visiting hours. Here are some frequently asked questions about our policy:

### **What is different with WDMH's visiting hours?**

Our visiting hours are flexible with no prescribed or restricted hours. Visiting hours are based on the expressed wishes of the patient, unique infection control restrictions or safety issues.

### **How do I enter the hospital at night?**

Visitors in the hospital between 8 pm (2000 hours) and 6 am (0600 hours) must use the Emergency entrance. All other doors are locked and should not be used.

### **What about infection control? Is there an increased possibility of acquiring infections?**

As always, visitors should not visit if they are feeling unwell, have an infection, have symptoms of flu-like or respiratory illness or communicable disease. Recent reviews show no link between flexible visiting hours and increased infection rates. Please use the hand sanitizing gel when entering and leaving the hospital.

### **Can visitors be present during staff shift changes?**

Yes. With the consent of the patient, the family should be able to stay and may participate in these discussions. This is part of WDMH's patient-centred, family-focused model of care.

### **How will larger (ward) rooms be managed with respect to visitors?**

We must balance the wishes and needs of all patients in the room. Visiting may be interrupted to provide patient care, to protect the privacy rights of other patients or to uphold safety and security decisions.

### **How will disruptive visitors be managed?**

The condition and care needs of all patients must be considered at all times. Visiting may be interrupted or adjusted to protect the privacy rights of other patients or to uphold safety and security decisions.

We all want to do what is best for your loved one. This means we need to think about his/her needs.

Patients need:

- To rest
- To take part in care and treatment
- To be protected from germs
- To have the support of friends and family

## Specific Patient Areas

### Emergency Department

- Patients are asked to try and limit visitors to one person if possible.

### Inpatient Medical and Surgical Unit, Enhanced Care Unit and Complex Continuing Care Unit

- Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult at all times

### Inpatient Maternity Unit (Obstetrics)

#### i. Post-partum Unit:

- Only one person is allowed to stay overnight
- Siblings under the age of 13 are permitted if accompanied by an adult

#### ii. Labour and Delivery Suite:

- Mother's partner or support person is allowed anytime

### Palliative Care Unit (End of Life Care):

- Visiting as directed by the patient or substitute decision-maker (no hospital restrictions)

*If you have questions or comments about WDMH's visiting hours, please contact our Chief Nursing Executive at 613-774-2420 ext. 6352.*