

DATE: Friday, 12 June 2020

SUBJECT: Revised Hospital visiting hours – effective Monday, 15 June 2020

In line with the easing of many community restrictions, the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District hospital visitor policy has been reviewed, with changes coming into effect from Monday, 15 June 2020.

The new visiting hours will apply at all ISLHD hospital sites during the COVID-19 pandemic while community transmissions of the virus remain low.

COVID-19 visitor screening and temperature checking at hospital entrances will continue. The names and phone numbers of all visitors will also be recorded on entry for COVID-19 contact tracing, if required.

General wards

Up to two visitors will be allowed at any one time for each patient. The Nurse Unit Manager or Nurse-In-Charge may need to modify this in exceptional circumstances in regard to physical distancing requirements, to enable equal access to visitors for all patients and the operational needs of the ward.

Visiting hours will be extended to two periods - from 10am to 1pm and 3pm to 7pm, seven days a week, with exemptions for Paediatric, End of Life and Maternity Units.

Children under 16 are now permitted to visit but are to be counted among the two visitors and a child visitor must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Paediatric and Neonatal unit

Children can have both parents / carers at any time with no restrictions on length of visit.

End of life

Where a patient is receiving end of life care, visitors are only limited to the extent necessary to minimise risk.

Maternity and Birthing

During labour and birth, mothers are able to be supported by up to two people.

Postnatally, the partner/support person is able to visit for unrestricted periods between 8am and 8pm. Additionally, up to two visitors are welcome at any one time during general hospital visiting hours from 10am – 1pm and 3pm – 7pm, however if the partner/support person is also in attendance they count as one person for the purpose of the two visitor limit.