



Russell Medical
MEMBER OF **UAB** HEALTH SYSTEM

Visitor Policy

Russell Medical recognizes the importance of Essential Caregivers and visitors in the healing process for our patients. In compliance with Ala. Act 2023-24 and Joint Commission standards, Russell Medical supports the rights of patients to have visitors and Essential Caregivers. Russell Medical is also committed to reducing risk and exposure to illness as recommended and required by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

A patient may receive visitors of their choosing during the visiting hours outlined below. In general, visitors should limit their visit to the visiting hours listed below. **Overnight visitor stays should be limited to one person.**

General visiting hours are **Sunday – Monday from: 6:00 am – 9:00 pm**

Designated entrances will only be open between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm. **No visitation is allowed after 9:00 pm.** Any emergency needs should be escalated to the Nursing Supervisor who is available 24 hours, 7 days. Approved, emergent, after-hours facility access may be granted through the Emergency Department entrance.

In general, **up to 4 visitors at a time are allowed in a patient room where space permits.** Certain exceptions depending upon patient needs will be determined by the care team and Nurse Supervisor.

General Guidelines for Visitors

- All visitors are required to abide by Russell Medical Policy
- The patient has the right to refuse or limit visitation
- Visitors under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult
- Visitors may have physical contact with the patient provided that the contact is appropriate and consensual
- Weapons, firearms, and explosive devices are prohibited
- Physical distancing is encouraged in public spaces (e.g., waiting rooms, common areas)
- Visitors and patients are encouraged to follow hand hygiene and cough etiquette precautions
- Visitor compliance with any personal protection equipment, universal precautions, and/or isolation education and requirements given by staff is required

Essential Caregivers

Patients have the right to appoint an Essential Caregiver. In the event that a patient is incapacitated, an Essential Caregiver can be appointed by an individual(s) with the legal authority to make decisions on behalf of the patient. An Essential Caregiver is not required to provide patient care.

Essential Caregivers are entitled to a minimum of 2 hours daily visitation in addition to other general visitation rights included within this policy.

Essential Caregivers may be limited to one at any given time and may rotate within facility visiting hours unless otherwise approved by the treating physician and/or Nurse Supervisor.

Essential Caregivers must comply with required personal protective equipment, universal precautions, and/or isolation requirements as directed by staff, treating physician, and/or Nurse Supervisor.

Essential caregivers may stay overnight with the patient.



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Clergy

Patients will be allowed access to clergy or chaplains in conformance with the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.

Visitor Limitations

- **Labor and Delivery**
 - 2 support persons allowed during labor
 - 2 support persons allowed during delivery
 - 1 support person allowed in OR for non-general anesthesia cases
- **Emergency Department**
 - 2 visitors allowed at a time due to limited space in treatment area
- **Surgery**
 - Visitors not allowed in the operating room (OR)/post anesthesia care unit (PACU)
 - If patient condition requires the presence of an Essential Caregiver, 2 caregivers may be allowed with prior approval
- **COVID (+) or Person Under Investigation**
 - During the first visit, Essential Caregivers will receive education from the care team on person protective equipment (PPE) and guidance to help ensure a safe visit. The caregiver must wear PPE supplied by the facility and follow facility guidelines
 - Essential Caregivers are encouraged to stay in the patient's room
 - Essential Caregivers cannot be present during aerosol-generating procedures

For the safety of our patients and staff, visitors should not enter any Russell Medical facility:

- If they are experiencing signs and symptom of illness or are feeling generally unwell
- They have a fever
- They are awaiting test results due to symptoms of or exposure to illness

Russell Medical reserves the right to suspend visitation rights in the event that a visitor exhibits illness symptoms.

Russell Medical reserves the right to suspend visitation rights to any visitor if they are unwilling to comply with facility policy.

The decision to suspend visitor rights will be made by the department director and/or Nurse Supervisor and the Administrator On-Call.

It is the responsibility of all employees to ensure compliance with the Visitor Policy. Questions or concerns arising from or related to the policy should be directed to the department director and/or Nurse Supervisor. Questions or concerns that cannot be addressed at the department level should be directed to the Administrator On-Call.