**PURPOSE:**

To ensure that hospital approved infection control procedures are adhered to by all CHLA volunteer dog handlers in the course of all CHLA approved dog therapy interactions on campus, and that any mistakes or incidents are addressed promptly.

* Only dogs enrolled in the CHLA Amerman Family Foundation (AFF) Dog Therapy Program accompanied by their designated handlers, service dogs assisting a person with a disability, and prospective therapy dogs coming for a formal evaluation conducted at CHLA are permitted on the CHLA campus. (Testing dogs must be bathed and have proof of rabies.)
* Only dogs enrolled in the CHLA Amerman Family Foundation (AFF) Dog Therapy Program may interact with patients, families, visitors and staff on the CHLA Campus. Service dogs assisting individuals with disabilities may not engage with public or staff. Prospective therapy dogs may not interact with anyone until formally granted admission to CHLA AFF Dog Therapy Program. **Pets from home MAY NOT visit except under specific authorized circumstances** approved by all of the following: Pain Service Medical Director; CHLA Administration; Head of Security; and the NP with Medical Oversight of the Dog Therapy Program. Hospital Infection Control Officer or Infection Control Practitioner(s) will be consulted by the Pain Service if needed.
* During infectious disease events of epidemiological importance (internal outbreaks, pandemics, etc) the AFF Dog Therapy Program will be modified or restricted at the discretion of the Director of Infection Prevention or designee.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Hand hygiene to be practiced by all who interact with a therapy dog at CHLA. All hospital personnel, visitors and patients must wash their hands or use hospital-approved hand-sanitizer prior to and after petting a therapy dog.
2. Volunteer Handlers must meet these infection prevention and control criteria:
   1. Maintain current health clearance issued by CHLA Employee Health Services. This health clearance is required annually.
   2. Register with the CHLA flu registration clinic during flu season, and follow hospital policies of wearing mask if flu vaccine is declined.
   3. Ensure that each patient is eligible for dog therapy visit before offering visit. Do not enter the room of a patient in any type of isolation or with a No Dog Visit sign on the door/isolation placard.
   4. In the case of patients seen outside the hospital room, do not allow patients wearing personal protective equipomet (PPE) (gowns, gloves and/or mask) to touch dog.
   5. Make sure each patient performs hand hygiene before and after touching therapy dog. Provide hospital-approved hand sanitizer to each patient. Patients may also opt to wash with soap and water before and after visits if able to do so.
   6. Require all people including siblings, outpatients, family members, visitors and hospital personnel to perform hand hygiene before and after each dog visit.
   7. If visit is to occur on furniture in hospital room, including on patient’s bed, the bedside chair, parent bed/window seat, place a clean sheet on surface before allowing dog to take position for visit. Clean sheets must have been obtained from staff or self-serve clean-linen areas (such as in rehab gym) that same day. At the end of visit, sheet must be removed and deposited in soiled linen bins in that particular room.
   8. Handler should not visit the CHLA campus if ill
   9. Handler should not visit the CHLA campus if handler has Herpes Zoster (shingles)
   10. Wear closed-toed shoes.
3. Volunteer Therapy Dogs must meet medical and infection control criteria by observing the following requirements:
   1. Undergo and pass yearly health screening and testing by a veterinarian
   2. Receive vaccinations as determined by the veterinarian
   3. Maintain current rabies vaccine
   4. Be free of oral and skin lesions as well as stitches/staples.
   5. Be free of acute illness
   6. Receive monthly flee control
   7. Bathe within 48 hours of visit
   8. Follow dog program’s procedure in unlikely instance of dog accidents in hospital by covering/collecting dog waste and alerting appropriate contact (charge nurse on units, security in lobby, etc.) to call and request sanitization of area.
   9. Dogs are not allowed in the outdoor Healing Garden

***Infection Control Exclusion Criteria for Dog Therapy***

1. General exclusions in all the following areas:
2. Any room with any type of isolation precautions
3. BMT, Gateway PACU/OR and Duque PACU/OR
4. During the first month s/p organ transplantation
5. During the first month s/p splenectomy
6. Whirlpool
7. Patient has a dog allergy
8. Fever of unknown origin
9. Open wounds or burns
10. Open tracheotomy (unless covered with cap, ventilator or oxygen source).
11. Dialysis: Exclusion is only during fistula access and decannulation procedure.
12. NICCU bedside visits with neonates is prohibited; however, dogs may visit in the nursing areas in the NICCU with the parents and staff.
13. Any room with “No Dog Visit” sign
14. Patients wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) (gown, mask and/or gloves) may not touch a dog even if they are allowed in the hallway

**DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Any abnormal incident related to Infection Control policies for Dog Therapy shall be documented by the RN and reported to the Magik Pain Service and the Dog Therapy Program staff.
2. Magik Pain Service will inform Infection Control (1-5510) of any health concerns or breach in infection control.

**Related Policy:**

1. [EGEN – 031.0 Dog Therapy Visitation Program Amerman Family Foundation Dog Therapy Program](https://secure.compliance360.com/ext/qp3KtnAM7pcOVbjLU-vwCQ==)

**REFERENCES:**

1. APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology. Chapter 67, 2015
2. HICPAC. Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities. MMRW 52(RR10) 2003. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5210a1.htm
3. American Veterinary Medical Association, Guidelines for Animal-Assisted Activity and Therapy Programs, approved by the AVMA Executive Board, April 1999.
4. US Department of Justice. American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) 2011 Revised Standards.

**POLICY OWNER:**

*Pain Management Program, Amerman Family Foundation Dog Therapy Program*