

## Parental Participation - Pediatrics

### Site Applicability:

Richmond Hospital

### Practice Level:

Registered Nurse

### Need to Know:

To allow nurses to build a partnership relationship with patients' families, including negotiating a comfortable level of participation of parents/caregivers, without compromising the safety of the patient.

The Registered Nurse (RN) admitting the patient to the ward reviews participation options with the parents/caregivers and, where appropriate, provides a cot or folding chair and bed linen.

Parents/caregivers are invited to stay and participate in their child's care 24 hours a day. If the child is under 13 years of age, one parent or caregiver needs to stay with a child overnight.

### Policy Guideline:

- Explain that only one parent/caregiver may stay overnight with their child, to ensure the safety of the child, the caregivers, and the nurses.
- Cots are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- Place the cot/folding chair along the wall, so that access to the patient is not blocked.
- Ask parents/caregivers to fold up the cot/folding chair in the morning, and show them where to store them.
- If no cots are available, parents may use a chair.
- Inform parents/caregivers of the facilities available, e.g., lounge, cafeteria, and gift shop. One parent/caregiver meal tray is provided for each meal.
- Discuss the plan of care with the family each shift. Negotiate with them how involved they would like to be. Answer questions and keep them informed of any changes in the child's condition and the plan for intervention.
- Ensure that the patient has appropriate rest breaks if they wish or if the nurse determines is needed.

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- Offer clear explanations and involve the family in making decisions about the child's care.
- 2 visitors at a time.
- Young siblings are not to stay overnight or to be left alone with the patient.

### References:

Ahmann, E. (1998). Examining assumptions underlying nursing practice with children and families. Pediatric Nursing, 23(5), 467-469.

Ball, J., & Binder, R. (2006). Child Health Nursing, Partnering with Children and Families. New Jersey. Prentice Hall.

Clements, P.T., Darvill, J., Redshaw, L. (2006). *Little Voices with Big Messages*. Neonatal, Paediatric and Child Health Nursing, 9(3), 4-6.

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### Approved for Posting by: