

## Hospital Visiting Guidance Updated 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

We are pleased to be able to further reduce visiting restrictions from **31<sup>st</sup> May 2022** across Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

To note; exceptions may occur in the areas below. Visitors to link with wards specifically:

- Children
- Maternity
- Patients with learning disabilities or cognitive impairment
- Designated carers
- Patients who cannot make decisions for themselves
- End of life care

### General visiting guidance:

- Visiting will be between the hours of 8:00am – 8:00pm for up to an hour duration.
- Visitors not to visit if they feel unwell
- Each patient can have a maximum of **two** visitors who are a close family contact or someone important to the patient.
- Visits will not be possible to areas closed due to an infection outbreak, other than in exceptional circumstances (agreed by the ward staff).
- Clean/sanitise hands on entering and leaving the hospital and ward.

### Covid Outbreak Wards

Visits to patients who have Covid-19 or who are currently in isolation due to contact with Covid-19 may occur in exceptional circumstances, as agreed with the ward staff.

- Visitors must be aware of the risks of COVID transmission and advised of infection control measures in place including the use of any PPE required during their visit.
- The pandemic has recognised that visitors from the same household are often symptomatic too. In end of life situations the Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C) team can advise on how such individuals can safely visit a patient who is in their end stage of life.
- Patients who are in the end phase of life who are diagnosed with Covid may receive visitors during their last hours of life, if permission is sought in advance from the ward staff.

- Visitors with underlying health conditions, or who were previously shielding, should be advised of the significant risks to themselves to visiting.

### **Outpatients**

Patients attending one of our hospitals for an outpatient appointment may have a maximum of two persons accompany them if required.

### **Visiting A&E or an Assessment Department**

You may bring one person with you. At busy times, we may ask that the person accompanying you temporarily wait elsewhere if there are space constraints.

We would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during what we know have been extremely difficult times for patients and their loved ones. All decisions have been taken in the best interests of the people we care for, the people who work in and visit our facilities, and the community we serve. Our visiting and appointment arrangements stay under regular review.

**Keeping everyone as safe as possible remains our priority**