

Suncoast Hospice Care Center Visitation Policy

Suncoast Hospice's Care Centers do not restrict visitors unless requested by the patient or the patient's legal representative. Suncoast may suspend in-person visitation of a specific visitor if the visitor violates Suncoast's policies and procedure. Care Center managers are responsible for ensuring staff adherence to visitation policies.

1. Visitation is allowed 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, at a minimum to include those designated as essential caregivers by the patient or legal representative. Accommodations will be made in the patient's room for the visitor who wishes to stay overnight.
2. In-person visitation must be allowed, unless the patient objects, for the following reasons: end-of-life situations; for patients who are struggling with the change in environment or lack of in-person support; when a patient is making a major medical decision; when a patient is experiencing emotional distress or grief; when a patient needs encouragement or cueing with eating or drinking and when a patient who used to talk and interact with others is speaking less.
3. Staff is consulted prior to allowing visitors to enter a patient's room when signage is posted on the patient's door for infection prevention purposes. Personal protective equipment (PPE) and education will be provided to visitors as needed. Required PPE must be worn by visitors.
4. Suncoast Hospice does not require social distancing between patients and visitors and does not require vaccination records of visitors for entry.
5. Visitors will be monitored for obvious signs of illness and screened per Center for Disease Control guidelines applicable to Suncoast Hospice inpatient units. Visitors who appear to be ill may be asked to return when illness has resolved.
6. Children may visit at any time accompanied by an adult. Family is encouraged to bring toys/activities for children during their visit. Children must be closely supervised at all times.
7. Staff's access to and care of the patient is of primary importance and cannot be restricted by visitors.
8. Visitors exhibiting inappropriate or threatening behavior may be asked to leave and may be prohibited from visiting.
9. Alcohol consumption by visitors is prohibited.
10. All Suncoast Hospice properties are smoke free.

Suncoast Hospice Care Centers, which have general inpatient tenant agreements in the community, collaborate with those facilities to ensure visitation for hospice patients and adherence with Suncoast Hospice's visitation policies.