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| TITLE        | BHDH Family Birth Center Visitor Policy  |
| TODAY'S DATE | May 4, 2020  |
| SECTION      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organization Wide<br><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Department<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inpatient <input type="checkbox"/> Ambulatory<br><input type="checkbox"/> Nursing <input type="checkbox"/> Medical staff [physicians and advance care practitioners] |

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| APPLICABLE LOCATIONS<br><input type="checkbox"/> All Bozeman Health locations<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital<br><input type="checkbox"/> Big Sky Medical Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Belgrade Clinic + UrgentCare<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hillcrest Senior Living<br><input type="checkbox"/> b2 UrgentCare <input type="checkbox"/> b2 MicroCare |
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| VERSION DATE  | 05042020.1  |
| CONTRIBUTORS  | Dr. Melissa Wolf, Dr. Angie Ostrowski, Kim Herring, Katie Osterloth, Lee Hoover |
| APPROVED BY   | Incident Command  |
| APPROVAL DATE | May 8, 2020   |

**PURPOSE:**

Heightened visitor restrictions at Bozeman Health care sites are required to help prevent spread of COVID-19. Compassionate exceptions are made for women hospitalized for antepartum care, during labor and delivery, and after the baby is born with certain parameters to help keep employees and medical staff, along with all patients, safe and healthy.

**POLICY/PROTOCOL:**

Visitor Restrictions for Labor & Delivery and Family Birth Center

**Caregiver Policy for Obstetric Patients on BHDH Labor and Delivery Unit and Postpartum Unit:**

A single healthy adult caregiver is allowed to accompany a woman during her stay in the Family Birth Center at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital.

- The caregiver will be permitted to accompany the patient during inpatient antepartum care and in the labor room while the mother is in labor, during and after vaginal delivery
- The caregiver will not be permitted in the operating room for a C-section or in the PACU after C-section. Infants delivered by C-section will be transitioned either with the caregiver in L&D or in the nursery, if clinically indicated.
- The caregiver will be permitted in the postpartum room as long as the caregiver does not leave the postpartum room. The same caregiver who accompanied a patient on labor and delivery should be the one to continue through the patient's postpartum stay.

A caregiver is defined as one healthy adult (18 or older) only. It will be the mother's discretion as to whether that one healthy adult will be her partner, spouse, or significant other, or the baby's guardian, or mother's family member, or doula or birth coach. The caregiver who accompanies a patient on L&D will be the one permitted to remain with that patient on the postpartum unit.

A caregiver will not be allowed to accompany a patient if they are not willing, or able, to stay in their patient's labor room and/or postpartum room throughout their stay.

**Caregiver Policy for Newborn Infant Patients – Postpartum Unit Couplet Care and Special Care Nursery**

- A single healthy adult caregiver is allowed to care for a baby in the nursery:
- During transition following C-section or vaginal delivery if indicated
- If the baby requires special nursery care while the mother is admitted
- If the mother is discharged before the baby and space on the unit can accommodate her staying as a boarding parent, the single caregiver, who had remained in the hospital throughout her postpartum stay, will be permitted to board with the mother for up to 48 hours, as long as they do not leave the hospital.

The caregiver must stay in the labor or postpartum room and is not permitted to leave the unit to go to the cafeteria, vending machines, walk around the building, out to smoke, to the pharmacy, to the car, or to home and back, etc.

Well babies should be cared for in the mother's postpartum room under couplet care instead of being brought into the nursery (except when there is a medical reason necessitating nursery care).

- "We Care" trays can be provided for the caregiver/boarding parent as needed for nourishment.
- Caregivers should not use the showers in the postpartum pods.
- Outpatient prescriptions will be brought to the postpartum unit as needed by hospital staff.
- At the time of discharge, the caregiver can make a single trip to their vehicle to bring the car seat into the building after it has been properly cleaned by staff with an appropriate solution.
- ALL caregivers must comply with current and future policies regarding hand hygiene, daily temperature checks, symptom monitoring, masks, etc.
- In order to minimize the number of persons in the OR, babies delivered by C-section will transition with the caregiver or in the nursery if clinically indicated. The baby will not stay with the mother in the operating room or go to PACU.

**NOTES:**

If an infant requires special nursery care after mom has been medically cleared and discharged, and there is either no space to provide for overnight boarding on the unit or the parent/caregiver is unable to board overnight for the length of the infant's hospitalization, only one caregiver will be provided with a visitor passport to visit the infant.

When a newborn infant is born to a mom suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, the visitation policy within the policy titled "*Management of Newborn born to mother with confirmed or suspected SAR-CoV-2*" will be followed.

**OTHER POLICIES/PROTOCOLS TO REFERENCE:**

[Management of Newborn born to mother with confirmed or suspected SAR-CoV-2](#)

**SCOPE:**

We anticipate these adjustments to be temporary and reserve the right to revise or discontinue these adjustments with or without notice depending on the current understanding and/or business needs of Bozeman Health relating to COVID-19.