



# PATIENT VISITATION BY EXCEPTION ONLY

Starting today, Monday, March 16, 2020 Whitman Hospital and Medical Clinics is expanding their patient visitation restrictions. The new policy is in place until the transmission of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is no longer perceived as a threat to patients, staff and community.

The decision to further restrict visitors was made after careful consideration of policies and practices recently put in place at area health care facilities schools, houses of worship and other venues to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Children under age 16 will not be allowed to visit except under extraordinary circumstances.**

## **Visitor exceptions include:**

- Obstetric patients may have **one partner and one birth support person** accompany them.
- Patients who are at the end-of-life may have **two visitors**.
- Patients with disruptive behavior, in which a family member is key to their care, may have **one visitor**.
- Patients who have altered mental status or developmental delays (where caregiver provides safety) may have **one visitor**.
- Minors under age 18 may have **one visitor (parent or guardian)**.
- Patients undergoing surgery or procedures may have **one visitor** who must leave the hospital as soon as possible after the procedure/surgery.
- Patients who have an appointment at a Whitman Hospital Clinic, or Whitman Hospital laboratory, or radiology, as well as those visiting the Emergency Department, may have **one person** with them.

Visitors must stay in the patients' room the entire time of the visit.