I. Purpose

This operational standard provides guidance on visitation management in L&D, L&D OR, OBED, Antenatal Unit, and the Mother Baby Unit of Ochsner Lafayette General Medical Center. Ochsner Health recognizes that visitors are an important aspect of our patient’s birth experience, healing, and recovery.

This operational standard provides guidance in order to:
1. Manage visitor’s access to our facilities;
2. Promote family- and patient-centered care;
3. Provide restful, non-disruptive nursing care;
4. Infection control; and
5. Manage workplace violence/safety to better serve and protect our patients, visitors, & healthcare team.

II. Definitions

1. Children(ren)- Any person under age eighteen as defined in Louisiana.
2. Adult- Any person eighteen years of age or older, or any person under the age of eighteen who has been emancipated by marriage or otherwise.
3. Representative- A person designated by the patient as a decision-maker or legal representative responsible for making medical decisions on the patient’s behalf when the patient lacks decision-making capacity. I.e., Legally Authorized Representative. (Patient Rights and Responsibilities- OHS.PTRE:001)
4. Support Person- A family member, friend, or other individual who supports the patient during their stay, or during their care and treatment.
5. Visitor- an individual designated by the patient to visit during the established hours of visitation.
6. Visitation hours- Standard visitation hours are 8:00 am until 8:00 pm.

III. Standard

The Organization supports the patients right to the presence of a support person during the hospital stay, unless this would interfere with the well-being, rights, or safety of others, or is not medically indicated in the patient’s care. The patient has a right to designate a Representative,
Support Person, and/or Visitor(s) of their choice. When possible, upon admission or presentation for care, a patient is informed of:

1- The patient’s right to visitation, restrictions, or limitations of such right, and the reason for restrictions or limitations. A reminder, visitation from family/friends is a privilege, not a right.
2- The patient’s right, subject to their consent, to receive visitors or specify visitors whom they designate, wither in writing or verbally.
3- The patient’s right to withdraw or deny, either in writing or verbally, such consent at any time.

IV. Procedure

1- Visitors are required to follow the guidelines set by individual campus policies or standard operating procedures.
2- Visitors are required to comply with all visitor-directed policies of the Organization or the facility, including, but not limited to, the following:
   a. Tobacco-Free Environment
   b. Photographs, Audio, and Video Recording
   c. Service Animals
   d. Infectious Disease Guidelines to include masks may be required in certain areas.
3- Visitors are to provide for their own meals and lodging.
4- Visitation Guidelines:
   a. For Labor and Delivery:
      1. At the discretion of the health care team, up to three (3) visitors are welcomed in the LDR rooms during the labor process, the delivery of the baby, and the recovery period.
      2. Visitors under the age of 12 years old require additional restrictions. Visitors under the age of 12 are only allowed to visit when an Adult (who is not the patient) can be responsible at all times for their care and supervision. This Adult must be included as one of the three visitors and be aware that the delivery may be missed to care for the Child. The Children of the patient may be present during the delivery at the discretion of the care team. If the patient wishes the sibling(s) to hold the baby, an Adult Visitor must be present and responsible in assisting the child.
      3. For the privacy and safety of all patients on the unit, Visitors must not wait in the hallways.
      4. One Support Person is allowed to remain in the labor room for the placement of a labor epidural, at he the discretion of the anesthesia provider. This Support Person must remain seated at all times during placement of the epidural.
   b. For Labor and Delivery OR:
      1. One (1) or two (2) attendants are welcome to accompany patients to the L&D OR suites for c-sections at the discretion of the care team. Attendants will be required to be seated at the head of the OR table. No one under the age of 18 will be allowed in the OR unless they are the father of the baby.
   c. For cesarean sections performed in the Main OR:
1. Cesarean sections may be performed in the Main OR due to additional complications or risk factors. In these situations, all the same stipulations would apply as in L&D OR, with the exception of the number of visitors allowed. In a Main OR cesarean section, one (1) visitor may be allowed at the discretion of the surgeon and the anesthesia team.

d. For Obstetrics Emergency Room (OBED):
   1. One (1) Support Person may be allowed in the OBED. Any additional visitors should wait in the waiting room until the patient is discharged or admitted into their hospital room.

e. For Mother Baby Unit and Antenatal Unit:
   1. At the discretion of the health care team, up to four (4) visitors are welcome in the antenatal and mother baby rooms during visiting hours.

   2. Visitors under the age of 12 years old require additional restrictions. Visitors under the age of 12 are only allowed to visit when an adult (who is not the patient) can be responsible at all times for their care and supervision. This responsible adult must be included as one of the three visitors and be aware that the delivery may be missed to care for the child. The children of the patient may be present during the delivery at the discretion of the care team. If the patient wishes the sibling(s) to hold the baby, an adult visitor must be present and responsible in assisting the child.

   3. Only one Support Person is allowed on the antenatal unit and on the mother baby unit after Visitation Hours. This overnight guest must be over the age of 18, unless they are the father of the baby. Any exceptions to this, due to extenuating circumstances of the patient, must be approved by a member the Maternal-Newborn and Pediatrics Services leadership team.