

APPENDIX B

NYS ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS' WEBSITE-POSTED VISITING POLICIES THAT COMPLY WITH AND INFORM PATIENTS/VISITORS ABOUT PATIENTS' LEGAL RIGHT TO CHOOSE VISITORS

- Statement refers to patient's right, choice, preference, designation or determination -

("ICU" = Intensive Care Unit; "CCU"= Critical Care Unit)(Revised 08-02-2013)

(website pages downloaded 7/25/2013)

Hospital	Relevant statement(s) on website-posted visiting policy
ALBANY Medical Center	<p>"A family member, friend or other individual designated by the patient may be present for emotional support during the course of the hospital stay at the request of the patient, unless that request infringes on other's rights, safety or is medically or therapeutically contraindicated." See http://www.amc.edu/Patient/patient_guide/for_families.cfm.</p>
ARNOT OGDEN Medical Center (Elmira)	<p><i>Probably sufficient to avert problems, as it expresses the hospital's intent to honor the patient's choices, but it could more clearly state that the patient has the right to choose who can visit:</i> "Visitors are welcome at Arnot Ogden Medical Center, and considered a vital part of patient care and recovery. It is our pleasure to support our patients in their choice of visitors." See http://www.arnothhealth.org/arnot-ogden-medical-center/aomc-visitor.</p>
CAYUGA Medical Center at Ithaca	<p>"Patients can choose who can and cannot visit them while they are in our healthcare facility without regard to legal relationship, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability." See http://www.cayugamed.org/content.cfm?page=admissions.</p>
COMMUNITY-GENERAL Hospital (Upstate University Hospital Community Campus) (Syracuse)	<p>"Hospitalized patients will be asked to identify a small number of primary support people. Primary support persons are those who normally provide a patient with significant physical psychological or emotional support. These support people will generally be able to visit at any time during their hospital stay (24 hours a day, 7days a week). Examples might be a close family member, domestic or same-sex partner, spouse, sibling or best friend." See http://www.upstate.edu/community/patients_visitors/guidelines.php.</p>
FOREST HILLS Hospital	<p>"Patients can choose who can and cannot visit them while they are in our healthcare facility without regard to legal relationship, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability." See http://www.northshorelij.com/hospitals/location/forest-hills-patient-visitor-information#Visiting_Hours_and_Policies.</p>
GLEN COVE Hospital	<p>"Patients can choose who can and cannot visit them while they are in our healthcare facility without regard to legal relationship, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability." See http://www.northshorelij.com/hospitals/location/glen-cove-hospital/patients-and-visitors#Visiting_Hours_and_Policies.</p>
GLENS FALLS Hospital	<p>"Glens Falls Hospital will not restrict, limit, or otherwise deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. Glens Falls Hospital will ensure that all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient preferences." <i>(The bolded emphasis is in the original.)</i> See http://www.glensfallshospital.org/Patients-and-Visitors/Patients-and-Visitors.cfm#Visiting_Hours.</p>
HIGHLAND Hospital (Rochester)	<p>"Patients have the right to choose to accept visitors, and to determine who they view as "family." Any limits placed on visitation are based on the</p>

	<p>patient's medical condition and the condition of any roommates or other patients in the area." See http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/highland/patients-visitors/visiting-information/visiting-info.aspx.</p>
HUNTINGTON Hospital	<p>"Patients can choose who can and cannot visit them while they are in our healthcare facility without regard to legal relationship, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability." See http://www.northshorelij.com/hospitals/location/huntington-hospital-patient-visitor-info#Visiting_Hours.</p>
INTERFAITH Medical Center (Brooklyn)	<p>"Patients can designate who can or cannot visit." See http://www.interfaithmedical.com/checksite/pv_visiting.php.</p>
JOHN T. MATHER MEMORIAL Hospital of Port Jefferson	<p>"Patients have the right to choose who can and cannot visit, and may select their priority support persons if visitation is restricted. Priority visitors may include any support persons chosen by the patient." See http://www.matherhospital.org/visitor-information.php.</p>
KINGSBROOK JEWISH Medical Center (Brooklyn)	<p>"Patients can choose who may or may not visit." See http://www.kingsbrook.org/Patients_and_Visitors_Guide/Visitation_of_Patients.aspx.</p>
LENOX HILL Hospital (Manhattan)	<p>"Patients may choose who can and cannot visit without regard to legal relationship, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability." See http://www.lenoxhillhospital.org/patients.aspx?id=70.</p>
LONG ISLAND JEWISH Medical Center (New Hyde Park)	<p>"Patients can choose who can and cannot visit them while they are in our healthcare facility without regard to legal relationship, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability." See http://www.northshorelij.com/hospitals/location/lij-patient-visitor-information#Visiting_Hours_Policies_and_Services.</p>
MEMORIAL SLOAN-KETTERING Cancer Center (Manhattan)	<p>"Memorial Sloan-Kettering patients have the right to decide who may or may not visit, and those visitors are allowed without regard to race, color, national origin, language, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or socioeconomic status." See http://www.mskcc.org/cancer-care/hospital-information/policy-visitors-patients.</p>
MERCY Medical Center (Rockville Centre)	<p>"Each patient and/or support person will be notified of their visitation rights, any clinical restrictions on those rights and their right to receive any visitors they designate. In accord with government regulations Mercy does not restrict or deny visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability; and endeavors to ensure that all visitors enjoy full and equal visitation privileges consistent with patient preferences." See http://www.mercymedicalcenter.chsli.org/visiting-hours.html.</p>
METROPOLITAN Hospital Center (Manhattan)	<p>"Patients have the right to designate any visitors, including a spouse, domestic partner, including a same sex domestic partner, another family member or a friend. Metropolitan Hospital does not restrict, limit or otherwise deny visitation privileges based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability." See http://www.nyc.gov/html/hhc/mhc/html/patients/visiting.shtml.</p>
MONTEFIORE Medical Center (Bronx)	<p><i>Probably sufficient to avert problems, since the phrase "other persons with a close relationship with the patient" indicates a patient-determined relationship, but it could more clearly state that the patient has the right to</i></p>

	<p><i>choose who can visit:</i> For Intensive and Special Care Units “Only immediate family members or other persons with a close relationship with the patient may visit in these units.” See http://www.montefiore.org/visiting-hours.</p>
NASSAU University Medical Center (East Meadow)	<p><i>Patient Information Guide, p. 14, states,</i> “Visitation rights include the right to receive the visitors designated by the patients, including, but not limited to, a spouse, a domestic partner a same sex domestic partner, another family member, or a friend.” It also states on p.21, “The hospital allows for the presence of a support individual of the patient's choice (family member, friend, or other individual) unless the individual's presence infringes on other's (i.e. roommate, staff) rights, safety, or is medically or therapeutically contraindicated.” See http://www.nuhealth.net/im/patients-and-visitors/NuHealth_Patient_Information_Guide_2012.pdf.</p>
NY-PRESBYTERIAN Hospital/COLUMBIA Medical Center (Manhattan)	<p>“Patients, a support person selected by the patient when he/she is admitted, or parents/guardians of patients who are minors may decide who visits and when.” See http://nyp.org/patients/visitors/visiting-hours.html.</p>
NY-PRESBYTERIAN Hospital/WEILL CORNELL (Manhattan)	<p>“Patients, a support person selected by the patient when he/she is admitted, or parents/guardians of patients who are minors may decide who visits and when.” See http://nyp.org/patients/visitors/visiting-hours.html.</p>
NYU LANGONE Medical Center (Manhattan)	<p>“Each patient has the right to determine who may and may not visit, including but not limited to a spouse, domestic partner, (including same sex domestic partner), another family member, friend or surrogate.” See http://www.med.nyu.edu/patients-visitors/patient-visitor-information/visiting-hours-and-policy.</p>
NORTH SHORE University Hospital (Manhasset)	<p>“Patients can choose who can and cannot visit them while they are in our healthcare facility without regard to legal relationship, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability”. See http://www.northshorelij.com/hospitals/location/nsh-patient-visitor-information#visiting.</p>
PLAINVIEW Hospital	<p>“Patients can choose who can and can't visit them while they are in our healthcare facility without regard to legal relationship, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.” See http://www.northshorelij.com/hospitals/location/plainview-hospital/patients-and-visitors#Visiting%20Hours%20and%20Policies.</p>
ST. CHARLES Hospital (Port Jefferson)	<p>“In addition, each and every patient is afforded full and equal rights to choose whom they want by their bedside during times of illness.” See http://www.stcharles.org/visitor-policy-and-visiting-hours.html.</p>
ST. ELIZABETH Medical Center (Utica)	<p>“We recognize each patient's right to designate and receive visitors and you may also withdraw the consent for visitation at any time.” See http://www.stemc.org/visitors/visiting-policy/.</p>
ST. JOSEPH'S Hospital (Elmira)	<p><i>Probably sufficient to avert problems, as it expresses the hospital's intent to honor the patient's choices, but it could more clearly state that the patient has the right to choose who can visit:</i> “Visitors are welcome at St. Joseph's Hospital, and considered a vital part of patient care and recovery. It is our pleasure to support our patients in their choice of visitors.” See https://www.arnothealth.org/st-josephs-hospital/stjosephs-visitors.</p>
ST. PETER'S Hospital (Albany)	<p>“The family, as determined by the patient, consists of the key support persons in the patient's life.... Our nursing staff will work with patients and</p>

	<p>their loved ones to develop a visitation plan that meets the needs of the patients, their families and their guests.” See downloadable “Visiting Guidelines for Patients and Families,” p. 2, linked at http://www.sphcs.org/VisitorInformation. (Note: While the downloadable guide clarifies that the patient determines who can visit, defining the term “family” as a patient-determined category of key support people regardless of legal relationship, and the general text on the page that contains the link refers to the importance of “family and friends” as visitors, the label on the webpage’s link to the guide simply uses the phrase “Patients and Families,” without including the hospital’s definition of the term. It might be better to use the phrase “Patients, Families and Friends.”)</p>
<p>SAMARITAN Medical Center (Watertown)</p>	<p><i>Probably sufficient to avert problems, especially since the number of visitors, when restricted, is often restricted to two. In some cases, however, there may need to be more than two support persons designated to attend the patient when visitation is restricted in order to maintain a bedside attendance for the patient over an extended period.</i> Includes a special page encouraging the patient to designate “up to two (2) patient care partners,” stating, “The Patient Care Partner is an adult identified by te patient or the patient’s legal surrogate to be an active part of their healthcare team.... The Patient Care Partner will be identified by the patient during the admission process and may be updated any time during the hospitalization.” See http://www.samaritanhealth.com/patients-and-visitors/visiting.</p>
<p>SARATOGA Hospital (Saratoga Springs)</p>	<p>“All hospitalized patients have the right to have visitors of their choice during their stay, unless visitation interferes with the well-being, rights or safety of others, or is not medically indicated in the patient’s care. Saratoga Hospital will not deny visitation privileges based on race, religion, ethnicity, language, culture, size, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability or disability. Patients will be informed of these rights upon admission to the hospital” See http://www.saratogahospital.org/patients-visitors/visitors/visiting-hours.</p>
<p>STRONG Memorial Hospital (Rochester)</p>	<p><i>Probably sufficient to avert problems, especially since the number of visitors, when restricted, is often restricted to two. In some cases, however, there may need to be more than two support persons designated to attend the patient when visitation is restricted in order to maintain a bedside attendance for the patient over an extended period.</i> “When you arrive at the hospital, we will ask if you would like to identify one or two support person(s)–family/friends who you want to have actively involved in your care, and determine how much you would like them to be part of your care.... We recognize that every patient is an individual with different needs and relationships. For that reason, it is up to you to decide the extent of your primary support person’s involvement in your care during your stay.” See http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/strong-memorial/patients-families/health-care-team/Your-Support-Person.aspx. Also the website contains an anti-discrimination clause that includes same-sex spouses and domestic partners. See http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/strong-memorial/visiting-information/hours-policies.aspx. (Note: The website used to have language that was less restrictive about numbers of designated “support persons” and more clear about who they could be: “The patient (or their personal representative, when applicable) may also designate one or more support person(s) who will be involved in their care by being present with the patient for emotional support during the course of stay. They may be family members, close friends or other individuals.” (downloaded 7/24/12). The newer website language, however, is more clear regarding the patient’s</p>

	<i>prerogative to determine how much such a support person should be involved in the patient's care.</i>
UNITED Health Services Wilson Medical Center (Johnson City)	“Every patient has the right to receive visitors who they designate including: spouse, domestic partner, family members, friends or personal representatives.” See http://www.uhs.net/?id=580&sid=1 .
UPSTATE University Hospital (SUNY) at Syracuse	“Hospitalized patients will be asked to identify a small number of primary support people. Primary support persons are those who normally provide a patient with significant physical psychological or emotional support. These support people will generally be able to visit at any time during their hospital stay (24 hours a day, 7days a week). Examples might be a close family member, domestic or same-sex partner, spouse, sibling or best friend.” See http://www.upstate.edu/hospital/patients/visitor_guidelines.php .
VASSAR BROTHERS Medical Center (Poughkeepsie)	<i>Probably sufficient to avert problems but could state more clearly the patient's right to choose visitors:</i> “VBMC recognizes the importance of family support during hospitalization – and we recognize that “family” may mean any individual who plays a significant role in a person’s life.” See http://www.health-quest.org/body_vb.cfm?id=1010#VisitingHours .
WESTCHESTER Medical Center (Valhalla)	<i>Probably sufficient to avert problems, as it refers to the patient's “right” to select a support person, but could state more clearly that the support person may be anyone of the patient's choosing, regardless of family or legal relationship, and the patient may designate more than one person to serve this role:</i> “It is the policy of Westchester Medical Center to ensure a patient’s right to designate a support person to be present with the patient during the course of stay. The individual may or may not be the patient’s surrogate decision-maker or legally authorized representative. We invite patients to inform the Nurse Manager on the patient care Unit, who that designated person is. The hospital prohibits discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, language, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression.” See http://www.westchestermedicalcenter.com/VisitingGuidelines .
WINTHROP-UNIVERSITY Hospital (Mineola)	“Our patients have the right to decide if they wish to have visitors while at Winthrop. Our patients have the right to designate who may visit them during their stay including but not limited to a spouse, a domestic partner, (including a same sex domestic partner), another family member, or a friend.” See https://www.winthrop.org/aboutus/patient-visitation/ .

Note that Franklin Hospital (Valley Stream) will be added to this list. This hospital had unintentionally left outdated language on an old, relatively inaccessible webpage unlikely to be accessed by an ordinary internet search, which is now being deleted. Its current website, which discloses the patient's right to choose visitors, is located at http://www.northshorelij.com/hospitals/location/franklin-hospital/patients-and-visitors#/Visiting_Hours_and_Policies