



Visitor Guidelines for Family and Friends

We encourage you to have visitors throughout your hospital stay. Although the hospital does have regular visiting hours, the best time for visitors on the transplant units is from lunchtime to early evening. **No one – including your caregiver and any other family member or friend – is allowed to stay in your room overnight.**

Because you will be susceptible to infection, we require special precautions on the transplant unit, including:

- A designated immediate family member or caregiver (e.g., spouse, significant other, adult child, or other caregiver) is welcome at any time, depending on the patient's needs for medical care/treatments, rest, privacy, safety, and patient preference.
- Family and friends are encouraged to visit between 1 p.m. and 9 p.m. to allow the patient's health and personal care needs to be most effectively met by health care staff. We recommend limiting the number of visitors at the patient's bedside to two at a time, due to space constraints. The number of visitors should take into consideration the patient's condition, preference, and proximity to other patients. Family waiting rooms and the Bretholtz Center at BWH are available for visitors when they are not able to be in a patient's room.
- **All visitors must be free of infection or exposure to communicable diseases** and will be asked to complete a screening form each day.
- **Children under age 12 are permitted only if they are the siblings, children, or grandchildren of patients.** Please have your caregiver or designated family member check with your care team ahead of time to make sure it's OK for the child to come to the inpatient floor. Children must have adult supervision (other than the patient) at all times while they visit, and visitation may be limited due to the patient's condition and/or preference. Children must be up-to-date with all vaccinations and free of cold, cough, fever, diarrhea, etc.
- All visitors must wash their hands with soap and water (or waterless antibacterial cleaner) and wear a mask.
- Visitors can only bring items made of paper or objects that can be wiped down with antibacterial wipes.
- Fresh flowers, plants, and fruit baskets are not allowed.

- Only food items approved by the Dietary Department or your care team are permitted.
- Visitors should not eat or drink in your room.
- Visitors should not come to the hospital if they think they have been exposed to an infection, are sick, or have been exposed to chickenpox, especially young children. In general, no young children should visit.
- Visitors should not handle medical supplies, sit on the bed or the recliner, use the bathroom, or eat in your room.
- Visitors can bring you games, computer games, videos, and CDs. Playing a game with a family member can sometimes make the time go by faster. In addition, music can be relaxing or invigorating.
- All items in the room are for your use only. Please do not share anything with other patients or visitors. The room and its contents will be specially cleaned and prepared for you before your admission.