



**PRAIRIE NORTH REGIONAL  
HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Number: 10520**  
**Category: General Patient Care**  
**Title: Open Family Presence in  
Saskatchewan Healthcare Facilities  
(excluded LTC)**

**Approved by: VP Integrated Health Services**

*Shirley A. King*  
**VP Primary Health Services**

**Source: Provincial**  
**Date Effective: Feb. 20, 2014**

Review Date:	April 8/16				
Initial:	<i>SK</i>				

**PURPOSE**

Prairie North Health Region supports a patient and family-centered approach to care, recognizing that families and friends contribute to healing, health, and well-being of patients during hospitalization.

This policy is common to all Saskatchewan acute healthcare facilities.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

1. Families are welcome 24 hours a day according to patient preference.
2. The number of people welcomed at the bedside at any one time will be determined in collaboration with the patient, family, and inter-professional care team. In situations where there are shared rooms, this discussion will include the other patient and his or her family. To ensure safety, considerations will be given to the physical limitations of the space.
3. Family members and guests may be asked to follow patient safety and security protocols.
4. Alternative guests (i.e. pets and/or animal-assisted therapy) must be pre-arranged with the inter-professional team.
5. Family and guests who are feeling unwell; have an infection; have symptoms or respiratory illness or flu-like illnesses should not come to a healthcare facility.
6. If an outbreak of infection requires restrictions for public health, the staff will collaborate with the patient and family to enable and ensure that selected family members are still welcomed.
7. For the safety of our patients, families and guests are required to perform hand hygiene with soap and water or alcohol based rub upon entering and leaving the patient's room.
8. Children (i.e. < 14 years) supervised by an adult who is not the patient are welcomed.
9. There may be interruptions to family presence to protect the privacy rights of other patients or to maintain safety and security. Patients and families are asked to help protect the privacy rights of other patients and families.

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Patient:** An individual accessing services. The terms client or resident may be used in the place of patient given the care setting.

**Family:** A group of individuals with a continuing legal, genetic, and/or emotional relationship. Patients define their ‘family’ and how they will be involved in care, care planning, and decision-making. The Province of Saskatchewan respects and values family as integral partners in providing excellent care.

**Guest:** Visitor of the patient or family.

## **REFERENCES**

Family Presence. Kingston General Hospital. 2014.12.

<http://www.ipfcc.org/advance/topics/Kingston-Family-Presence-Policy.pdf>

*Provincial Policy Approved: August 28, 2015. CEO/DM.*

This policy is supported by other Prairie North policies and procedures, including but not limited to:

- OH&S Policy IV 407 – Safe and Respectful Workplace
- OH&S Policy IV 408-02 – Scent-sensitive Work Environment
- Infection Prevention and Control Manual – Section 1: Routine Practices, 3. Hand Hygiene