

**To:** All staff and physicians  
**From:** Jean Daigle, VP Community  
**Date:** Feb. 4, 2021  
**Re:** **Palliative Visitation Requests**

As we go in and out of various recovery phases, we have learned a lot from the necessary public health measures to ensure our population is safe, particularly those in hospital.

Consistency in applying the guidelines for palliative patient visitation is a requirement. The following criteria is to be considered for visitor restrictions:

**Definition of palliative care patients:**

The current policy ([Memo #22 – June 5, 2020](#)) provides the following criteria – *“the patient will need to have a Palliative Performance Scale (PPS) value of 40 per cent or less, the patient’s time of death is within 3 months, based on a clinical prognostic, and the patient is not likely to be discharged home.”* We believe this provides a reasonably objective measure. The clinical team participates in this determination by providing the clinical assessment.

We also recognize there is a need to implement palliative visitation restrictions therefore the following would apply for Yellow, Orange and Red phases.

**Visitation Guidelines:**

1. **One** healthy visitor at a time, from a list of 10 designated visitors, unless associated support is required. The facility is to be provided with the list of individuals in advance.
2. When a patient is actively dying (PPS of 20 per cent or less), **two** healthy visitors at a time from the list of 10 designated visitors. Visitation outside of the normally designated visiting hours may be considered.
3. **One** additional visitor (pastoral/spiritual care), per palliative care patient at the end of life, is permitted to visit to provide comfort to the patient, family and loved ones during the end of life period.

4. Out-of-province visitors must follow Public Health guidelines regarding application for exemptions, testing and isolation.

We feel these changes will provide necessary restrictions to protect staff and patients at our inpatient facilities, while allowing families and patients to have a more natural experience during the pandemic when a loved one is dying.