

FOI_1269_2023-24 – FOI Request Concerning – Visitation Policies

1. Did your Trust alter or update its visitor policy in response to Covid-19, yes or no?

Yes

a. If yes, what changes were introduced?

IPC guidance was provided during the pandemic. 15th June 2020. Visiting was limited to people at end of life or those patients where it was not in their best interests to not have access to their family and was in line with NHSE guidance

b. If yes, are any of those policies still in place?

There is no current general visitors policy in place and decisions regarding visiting arrangements is down to individual ward manager/clinical manager discretion. IPC provide visitor recommendations where infections are suspected or confirmed.

c. If yes, which of those policies are still in place?

IPC inpatient visitor recommendations is available on SolNet for staff to utilise, last updated 18/04/2023.

2. Does the Trust currently have any visitation policies that:

a. Would prevent a patient from receiving a visitor?

There is no formal policy from an IPC perspective, only recommendations which can be discussed on a case by case basis

b. If yes, in what wards or circumstances does this apply?

Restrictions apply if a patient or visitor has a confirmed or suspected infection although the guidance provides mitigation for visiting to continue

c. If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?

yes

d. Set a restriction on the number of different people able to visit a patient during their stay

Yes During COVID

e. If yes, in what wards or circumstances would the number of different people visiting a patient be restricted?

From an IPC perspective there is currently no restrictions on the number of different people visiting.

There was a period during 2021 where one designated visitor was permitted (see e-mail May 2021) and December 2021 (see e-mail for comms guidance) which does not indicate a restriction on the number of visitors but requests a negative LFT is provided. December 2022 Covid-19 guidance advises two visitors during visitation but no restrictions on different visitors.

18/04/2022 IPC recommends 2 visitors but no requirement for named visitors.

f. If yes, how many different people do these restrictions permit as visitors

N/A

g. If yes, were these restrictions in place before March 2020?

Unknown