

19<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### **To whom it may concern**

In light of the changes to Government rules regarding Covid-19 we wanted to re-emphasise the visiting arrangements at Peace Hospice Care.

As a healthcare organisation caring for patients who are extremely vulnerable, their safety, and that of our staff, is paramount. Although the Government has chosen to relax the rules from the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 there will be no change to the clinical visiting policy currently. We have made this decision due to the increasingly high rates of community Covid-19 infection locally, the ongoing vulnerability of our patients and the safety of our staff. These arrangements have been made in line with similar decisions made at other local healthcare organisations including NHS hospitals and other hospices.

Currently, visiting on our Inpatient Unit is limited to a maximum of **5** pre-nominated visitors who will be the named visitors for the duration of the patient's stay. However we can only accommodate **2** visitors per patient on the Unit at any one time. We ask that you visit between the hours of 9:30am to 5pm unless the person you are visiting is receiving end of life care; at which point this time restriction does not apply. Other visiting arrangements may be discussed with the Director of Patient Services.

You will be asked to delay your visit if you:

- have had contact with anyone who has suspected/possible COVID-19 symptoms, or if you have been informed that you are required to self-isolate
- are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test
- have a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature (37.8°C or above), or if you are feeling generally unwell
- have a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**If you have recently returned from abroad or have travelled from another country to visit, you must follow the Government guidelines relating to quarantine/isolation period.**

All visitors to the Inpatient unit will still be required to wear personal protective equipment which will be provided in line with Public Health England guidance.

If visitors will be travelling a long distance to come to see a patient at Peace Hospice Care, we advise that they confirm with staff on the inpatient unit **before** embarking on their journey to ensure that their names are included on the list of pre-nominated visitors in order to avoid any inconvenience.

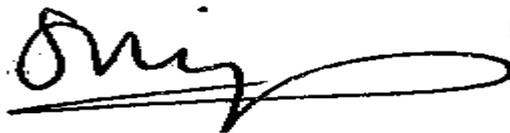
We know this is already a difficult time and even more challenging due to the pandemic.

However, we are here to support you, please speak to the senior nurse in charge if you have any questions or if you wish to speak to a member of the Hospice Senior Management team.

Yours faithfully



Caroline Allen  
Director of Patient Services



Dr Sarah Klinger  
Medical Director