**End of Life Visiting for Non-COVID Patients – Information for Visitors   
Date Effective From: 22 June 2020**

## Aim of advice: To support the right of the dying person to have a visit from loved ones and a spiritual or religious advisor[[1]](#endnote-1) For the visitor(s)

The responsible clinician or nurse in charge of the ward will contact you to advise you about making a visit to your loved one. They will do this having established this is the wishes of your loved one.

The following applies: –

* Two nominated people can visit, subject to space being available to maintain 2m distance around your loved one[[2]](#endnote-2); for a person with known or suspected COVID-19 only one person can visit
* If the Partner/Spouse has Dementia or a life-threatening condition and you understand the risk of them visiting, they can come in or we can allow an alternative family member to come in : currently we cannot allow care home residents to visit.
* We strongly advise that visiting a dying person you come with another person who can drive you to/from the hospital - this will help support you at end of the visit
* The time allowed for the visit may be limited though can be for an extended time subject to discussion and negotiation between the visitors and ward manager, and if necessary, a senior manager
* You always must wear a face mask whilst in the hospital buildings
* You will be expected to keep up washing your hands when leaving the ward and as per government advice afterwards
* If you are visiting a dying person and you develop symptoms of COVID-19 you must self-isolate as per Government advice – currently 7 days minimum
* If you have any of the COVID-19 symptoms, we ask you not to come in and report to the ward
* If preferred the ward team can arrange for a call or virtual visit via a handheld system to the dying person
* You can send letters in via this email address - [letterstolovedones@mkuh.nhs.uk](mailto:letterstolovedones@mkuh.nhs.uk)
* If your loved one shows signs of recovery albeit temporary will have to stop visiting; we will keep the condition of the patient under review and let you know of any change.

## The ward team will

* Recognise the importance of allowing visits where possible to those who are dying
* Tell you what PPE you need to wear – this may not be more than the mask you are already wearing – and help you put on what is required and remove safely
* Offer you a drink prior to going on to see the patient – keeping you hydrated, and they will check on you regularly during the visit
* Offer you time alone with your loved one or offer to stay with you
* Call in any faith representative that knows your loved one – they will not count as an additional visitor
* Offer you the booklet “Words and Prayers for the bedside” for the family member to say with the loved one or staff member
* Arrange for the medical team to speak face to face with you if the patient has given consent
* If necessary, the ward team will explain what happens next to property and any valuables – when your loved one dies – and give you the appropriate information leaflets

1. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C0393-clinical-guide-for-supporting-compassionate-visiting-arrangements-11-may-2020.pdf> [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Subject to the current Government advice at the time [↑](#endnote-ref-2)