

INFECTIOUS DISEASE/PANDEMIC EMERGENCY

**SUBJECT: COMPASSIONATE CARE/END-OF-LIFE VISITATION –
PANDEMIC EMERGENCY/INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAK (PEP)**

POLICY: In conjunction with CMS, NYSDOH and CDC guidelines for transmission precautions during a Pandemic Emergency/Infectious Disease outbreak, Gurwin has implemented the following practice allowing for visitation for compassionate care/imminently dying residents. Decisions about visitation during an end of life situation should be made on a case-by-case basis, which should include careful screening of the visitor for any symptoms of Pandemic Emergency/Infectious Disease outbreak. Individuals will be screened in accordance to CDC/ NYSDOH guidelines and will not be permitted to enter if they do not meet established criteria.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Administrative staff will assess, on a case-by-case basis, resident need for compassionate care visits. The attending physician (or proxy) will make a determination as to the resident's end-of-life status. If it is determined that the resident will benefit from a visit, the Administrative team/Physician will notify:
 - a. The resident representative of the resident's status;
 - b. And either:
 - i. The Chief Social Work Officer/Supervisor of Social Work
Monday through Friday - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
 - ii. The Nurse Care Coordinator (NCC) on duty
After hours/holidays/weekends
2. The Chief Social Work Officer/Supervisor of Social Work or the NCC will, in turn, inform the front receptionist of the resident's status.
 - a. The front receptionist will maintain a log (*see EOL attachment #1*) noting the resident's names, room number and names of representative(s) that may visit.
 - b. The log will include the name of the staff member providing above information to the receptionist for tracking purposes.
 - c. The Chief Social Work Officer/Supervisor of Social Work or the NCC will inform the assigned social worker to inform families of their opportunity to visit their loved one.



3. The assigned social worker (or proxy) will inform the family/resident representative of the following information based upon the administrative team/ physician's assessment:
 - a. The number of visits permitted.
 - i. Eligibility to remain on the list of visitors will be reviewed weekly with the physician and the number of visits maybe extended on a case-by-case basis, pending residents' current status.
 - b. Visitors are to visit one at a time in order to maintain social distancing (six (6) feet apart)
 - c. Each visit will be no more than 30 minutes in duration.
 - d. Visitors will be reminded to frequently perform hand hygiene.
 - e. Visitors will be screened when entering the facility as per CDC / NYSDOH regulations.
 - f. Visits will be limited to the resident's room.
 - g. Each visitor will wear the PPE provided by the facility following CDC/DOH guidelines.
 - i. Instructions on appropriate donning and doffing will be provided. Visitors will take off and place PPE into garbage pails located in the resident's room.
 - h. Visitors will be provided a handout instructing them to call Gurwin regarding the development of fever or symptoms consistent with CDC/DOH Pandemic Emergency/Infectious Disease outbreak guidance.