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**14 May 2020**

## **Update re VISITORS TO MERCY HOSPICE INPATIENT UNIT UNDER ALERT LEVEL 2**

### **Purpose**

This guidance is to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission within the Mercy Hospice environment under Alert Level 2 while considering the physical, psychological and social needs of our patients, their families and their whanau.

### **Visitors under Level 2**

At all times Mercy Hospice is guided by the New Zealand Government Alert Levels guidelines which specify the public health and social measures to be taken at Covid-19 pandemic alert levels.

### **Principles**

1. Consideration of the physical, psychological and social needs of our patients, their families and Whanau.
2. Minimisation of infection transmission by continued vigilance with:
  - Maintaining 1m physical distancing
  - Strict adherence to appropriate hand hygiene techniques
  - Strict adherence to surface hygiene with clear workspaces and repetitive surface cleansing
  - Compliance with contact tracing supported by effective recording systems

### **Visitor access**

- every visitor will be screened prior to entering the MH building
  - if no risk then entry will be possible
  - if risk of Covid-19 then the visitor will be advised to immediately seek advice from their GP or Healthline

- every visitor's name, contact details, date/time of entry and departure will be recorded by receptionist
- maximum of 2 visitors per patient, to allow 1m physical distancing in inpatient unit
  - different visitors are able to come and go, and will be asked the screening questions on each return
- maximum of 2 visitors to remain overnight and sleep in patient's room
- in last hours of life special consideration for increased number of visitors will be considered on an individual case basis and following a decision made by IPU Coordinator and IPU Doctor
- during transfer of patient from MH care to the care of the Funeral Director special consideration for increased number of visitors to be present outside New St building door may be considered on an individual case basis and following a decision made by Inpatient Unit Coordinator and Doctor
  - maximum of 10 visitors to facilitate 1m physical distancing from staff
  - all staff present to maintain 2m distancing from visitors and 1m physical distancing from other staff members

For assistance regarding a request for admission to Mercy Hospice Inpatient Unit please contact

**Doctor Direct 24/7 Line (376 7565)**

For more information regarding MH policy please contact **(09 361 5966)**

**Dr Pamela Jennings, Medical Director Mercy Hospice**

**Collette Parr-Owens, Clinical Services Manager and Head of Nursing Mercy Hospice**