

PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for support person in and recording of the birth experience.

SCOPE:

Women and Children's Services, Labor and Delivery (L&D)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Definitions	
Term	Definition

POLICY:

To allow the patient the option of having a support person share her labor and delivery experience.

PROCEDURE/GUIDELINES:

Generally three support persons, selected by the patient, are permitted. One observer can be permitted with the verbal consent of the patient's OB provider and the patient's nurse in the OR. (See visiting guidelines)

Additional observers can be allowed when their presence does not compromise the privacy of other patients in the unit, or the welfare of the mother and/or baby.

The physician/CNM, anesthesiologist or nurse has the prerogative during labor and/or at the time of delivery to refuse admission of the observer(s) to the delivery room.

Observer(s) may be present for either vaginal or Cesarean (see C-Section Criteria for Support Person in O.R.) deliveries performed within the L&D Unit/OR. Consent for observation of Cesarean delivery is obtained from physician and support person.

Approval is obtained from the patient and the attending provider prior to family members taking pictures in the Delivery Room. (This approval may be verbal)

The nursing staff has the right to refuse the use of videotaping that involves them personally.

At no time will photos and/or videotape be taken by patient significant other(s) of infants other than their own.

Prepared childbirth classes are advised, but not required, for the observer to be present at the delivery.

Videotaping is allowed at the discretion of the, patient, provider, and RN and video must be turned off as instructed.

DOCUMENTATION:

Not applicable.

REFERENCES:

American Academy of Pediatrics/American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Guidelines for Perinatal Care, 2012, (7th Edition), Washington D.C., Library of Congress. pp 161-162