

## **Tips for the Responsible Hospital Visitor**

In recent years, the Northumberland Hills Hospital has made changes to its patient visitation guidelines in order to better control the spread of infectious illness.

Here are a few things to think about the next time you visit someone in the hospital:

- Visit patients from 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. when most patient tests have been completed for the day.
- Refrain from visiting the hospital if you feel unwell, particularly if you are coughing, sneezing, have a runny nose, sore throat, fever or nausea and diarrhea.
- Take the time to carefully read any visitor information posted at hospital entrances and follow the guidelines.
- Wash your hands thoroughly using the hand sanitizer provided at each entrance of the hospital.
- Avoid bringing small children to the hospital during visitations; if you must bring along small children, please keep an eye on them.
- Gifts are always appreciated by patients, however, it's best to do your homework beforehand. Some patients have diet restrictions during their hospital stay, while others may share a room with an individual with allergies.
- When choosing a floral bouquet for a patient, please consider a non-fragrant variety (i.e. tulips, chrysanthemums, carnations, gerbera, snapdragons) out of consideration for other patients who may be allergic to strong fragrances.
- Consider bringing flowers to the hospital in a vase rather than a basket filled with foam; floral arrangements last longer and require less care when presented in a vase.
- When purchasing balloons for a hospital patient, please choose Mylar balloons only, as the hospital has a no-latex policy (due to patient allergies).
- Respect the privacy of other hospital patients, and any requests made by hospital staff.
- Keep in mind that all patients need their rest, so short, frequent visits are better than one long visit.
- Please note the Northumberland Hills Hospital and its grounds are smoke-free.
- Visitor parking is located across from the hospital's main entrance, and is available at a cost of \$4 per visit. Monthly discount parking cards are available for those family members visiting the hospital on a more frequent basis. Please refrain from parking in the short-term parking area when visiting patients; these areas are reserved for physicians responding to patient emergencies and for patient drop-off only.

**Thank you for visiting  
the Northumberland Hills Hospital.**

**If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Patient Relations Officer at (905) 377-7757.**