

Greer Memorial Hospital Information for Visitors



Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center (GHS) strongly believes family and friends play an important role in the healing process. Our system's visiting program enables patients to choose whom they want to visit and when.

GHS recognizes that the following keys are important to the recovery process:

- Presence of family and loved ones who are supportive
- A sense of safety and security
- A quiet environment

Our staff members support each patient's decisions on visitation. Please let us know if our help is needed with visitation. Guest Services may be reached at 455-5555.

Greer Memorial Hospital

Visiting Hours

- General visiting hours are 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- See additional information regarding visiting hours in specific areas listed on page 2
- Care Partners may visit anytime at the patient's request
- Before 9 p.m., visiting hours are flexible based on the needs of our patients
- For the safety and rest of our patients, all facilities are locked from 9 p.m.-6 a.m.
- We urge family and friends to call in advance to make sure their visit will be convenient for the patient: To call a patient's room, dial 797 + 8 + the room number

Protecting the Health of Our Patients

A person – child or adult – who is showing any symptoms of illness should not visit a patient in the hospital until the symptoms are gone. For the protection of patients, all family members and visitors are asked not to visit if they have any of the following:

Runny nose	Fever (greater than 100.4°F)
Cough	Vomiting
Sore throat	Diarrhea
Sneezing	Draining wound
Rash	

Note: Your child's immunizations should be current. Any child who has a cold, the flu, chickenpox, measles or mumps within the past week may not visit.

Also for everyone's safety, visitors of all ages must wear shoes and appropriate clothing.

Hand Cleaning Helps Prevent Infection

We encourage our patients and their family and friends to be involved in the care of the patient. It is fine for you to ask healthcare providers if they have cleaned their hands. Patients and visitors should also clean their hands ...

- Before and after using the bathroom
- Before and after touching the patient
- Immediately after contact with blood, other body fluids, non-intact skin or any potentially infectious source
- After covering a cough or sneeze or wiping the nose

Routine hand-cleaning instructions: Use either soap and water or a waterless gel.

Soap and Water

- Wet hands and wrists with water
- Apply soap and work up a good lather
- Scrub all areas of fingers, hands and forearms
- Dry hands with paper towels completely
- Turn faucet off with a paper towel

Waterless Gel

- Push metal bar to dispense gel into palm
- Rub hands together until gel covers them
- Allow hands to dry without wiping them

Adults should wash a child's hands.

Preparing Children to Visit the Hospital

A visit from a child can be of great comfort to the patient; however, if not handled properly, the visit can be stressful for both the patient and the child. The following guidelines will help make the visit a positive experience for everyone:

- Children are identified as age 14 and under
- Children should visit with a purpose
- An adult other than the patient should accompany children at all times, and children should never be left unattended
- Behavior should be appropriate (quiet voices, low activity levels, etc.)

When children do visit, the responsible adult must be mindful of other patients. Encourage children to keep their voices low; keep children in the patient's room with the door closed.

Before the visit, talk with the patient and nurse to decide the best time to visit and how to handle any “scary” details.

Talk to the child about why the patient is in the hospital and what he or she can expect to see during the visit. Describe the medical staff and equipment as well as how the patient will look and act.

During the visit, place the child in clear view of the patient. Talk about familiar objects in the room such as cards, pictures or flowers. Observe the patient and the child for signs that the visit has lasted long enough. Offer the child an opportunity to leave the bedside if the adults would like to visit further, but make sure the child is still under adult supervision.

After the visit, listen for questions and respect the child’s feelings. Encourage drawing and writing to help the child express emotions.

Pet Visitation

Patients who wish to have their pet visit during their hospital stay are encouraged to do so. Animals most suited for hospital visits are small dogs and cats. Inquiries should be made to the patient’s nurse. Approval must be obtained from the patient’s physician. You will be required to show your pet’s immunization record.

How to Be a Great Visitor

For the comfort of your loved one and to respect the needs of all, we ask that you observe the following guidelines:

- Please call the patient before visiting: The hospital operator is 797-8000
- Let the patient determine the length of visits
- Limit the number of guests in the patient’s room and be as quiet as possible in the hallways
- Use the restroom facilities in the waiting areas
- Be aware that patients may be sensitive to certain smells, so please do not wear perfume or cologne and limit food and beverages to designated areas
- Dress appropriately – shirts and shoes are required for everyone, including children
- Honor “No Visitors” signs on patient room doors
- Ask the patient or family members how you can best help them – see below for some tips

Alternatives to Visiting

It is possible to provide comfort and support for patients in ways other than visiting the hospital. Consider these alternatives:

- Send the patient a greeting card or an online greeting by going to ghs.org/egreeting.asp
- Provide for the family’s food needs by doing the grocery shopping, preparing and freezing meals or giving gift certificates to local restaurants
- Help with daily activities such as making lunches and carpooling children, collecting mail and newspapers, cleaning house, caring for pets or running errands

- Consider other special needs you can help with such as planning birthday parties, picking up relatives from the airport or offering a ride home from the hospital

Care Partners

A Care Partner is a family member or close friend, at least 18 years old, chosen by the patient to participate in the emotional, physical, educational and spiritual support of the patient. Care Partners are given an identification badge and packet of information on admission. Meals for Care Partners may be ordered with the patient’s meal. Refer to your packet for additional information.

Visiting in Special Areas

Labor & Delivery and Mother-Baby Units

Having a baby is an exciting and busy event. New mothers and babies need lots of rest and time to be together. In response to these needs, as well as to keep new babies from being exposed to illness, the maternity units have special visiting policies. Ask your nurse for the Labor & Delivery and Mother/Baby Units Visitation Policy brochure.

Mother-Baby Unit Visiting Hours:

Immediate family: 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

Extended family and friends: 6-9 p.m.

We encourage mothers to rest from 12:30-2 p.m. daily; please avoid visiting during this time.

Emergency Services

Greer Memorial Hospital has a Level III Emergency Trauma Center. Our emergency department is a very busy place, and we ask that you comply with the following:

- Visitors will be issued a temporary badge with location to visit and expiration date; badges must be worn at all times
- Two visitors may visit at a time
- Visitors are asked to remain with the patient when visiting in the treatment area
- Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times
- Visiting may be delayed for medical procedures performed at the bedside and for communication among caregivers at shift change

Critical Care Areas

Greer Memorial Hospital has an intensive care unit. Visiting patients in this area can be stressful and scary, particularly for children. If this visit is requested, please speak with a nurse.

- Visiting hours for the critical care area is from 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Visiting is based on the needs of our patients in the intensive care unit
- Two Care Partner badges will be given to the family on admission to the area: These badges will allow the Care Partners to be in the hospital after 9 p.m.
- Visiting may be delayed for medical procedures performed at the bedside and for communication among caregivers at shift change

Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center (GHS) and its specially selected, highly trained physicians and medical staff provide the most comprehensive, innovative treatment in the area. Every member plays an important role in delivering revolutionary, patient-focused care for heart and vascular disease, orthopaedics, cancer, children's health, women's health, mental health, rehabilitation, emergency medicine, brain injury and more.

But treating medical conditions is only part of our mission. We're committed to bringing you the full circle of health care – preventing illness, educating the healthcare professionals of tomorrow, researching new ways to fight disease and working to build a healthier community. In short, we're committed to your 360° health.

Whether you're 5 or 95, the importance of having a regular physician is the same. At University Medical Group – the multi-specialty medical group practice of GHS – our specially selected, highly trained doctors want to partner with you to help you and your family enjoy a healthy life. From primary care to specialists in nearly every area of medicine, GHS University Medical Group strives to provide you with the full circle of health care. Visit ghs.org/umgdoc to learn more about our physicians.



GREER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL