

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES  
PEDIATRIC SECURITY / VISITOR POLICY**

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**Effective Date: 10/10**  
**Cross Referenced: Visitor Policy, AD114**  
**Care Partner, AD092**

**Policy No: PC32**  
**Origin: Patient Care**

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**Authority: Chief Nursing Officer**  
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**SCOPE**

All pediatric patients being cared for on the 3 South nursing unit.

**PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines to maintain the safety and security of pediatric patients.

**DEFINITIONS**

Pediatric patient: any patient who is less than 18 years of age.

**POLICY**

All pediatric patients will be provided a safe, age appropriate hospital stay. This will be accomplished through individual assessment, patient / family / staff education and plans of care.

**PROCEDURE**

Pediatric patients will be admitted to 3 South. The primary nurse will assess the patient's age, both chronological and developmental. Parents should be asked if there are any special concerns such as a custody dispute or a restraining order. Based on this assessment, the patient will be assigned to a room within visualization of the nurses' station. This will be a private room unless there is an appropriate pediatric patient to cohort with.

Unless the pediatric patient is an emancipated minor, one parent will be requested to stay with the patient at all times. If a parent is unable to stay, s/he can assign as a substitute an adult who is 18 years or older. Both parents are welcome to stay if a private room has been assigned or within the charge nurse's discretion based on patient care needs. Parents will be assigned a Care Partner ID badge which will facilitate their 24/7 visitation rights.

Guest trays will be provided during meal time.

Security staff members will check the census daily to identify the presence of pediatric patients. When pediatric patients are present on 3 South, a security staff member will round each shift to assess the third floor for any safety / security concerns. S/he will document these rounds and take appropriate steps to minimize any concerns. S/he will notify the Administrative Supervisor accordingly.

**REFERENCES**

- Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals (CAMH), 2010, EC 02.01.01, The Joint Commission, Chicago, Illinois.
- Healthcare Security: Basic Industry Guidelines, International Association for Healthcare Security and Safety, [www.iahss.org](http://www.iahss.org)
- Joint Commission Resources, [www.jcrinc.com](http://www.jcrinc.com)
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. For Healthcare Professionals: Guidelines on Prevention of and Response to Infant Abductions, 9th Edition. [Online] Available: <http://www.missingkids.com>, June 2009.