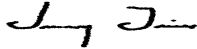
	<h1>Policy</h1>	Section Accessibility	Number 29-003
Support Persons	Original Effective Date December 2009	Review/Revised Date(s) Apr. 17/12, Jan. 31/13, August 2014	
	Next Review Date: August 2017		
	Authorization: Director of Corporate Affairs	<div style="text-align: right;">  Signature: </div>	

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline practices and procedures in place at South Huron Hospital Association (SHHA; the Hospital related to support persons.

Policy

People with a disability who are accompanied by a support person have the right to have access to that support person while at the hospital to assist them with communication, mobility, personal care or medical needs to enable access to goods and services provided by SHHA.

A support person may be a Regulated Health Professional or unregulated person such as a family member, volunteer or friend.

SHHA reserves the right to limit a support person's access to their charge on the basis of medical or safety considerations. For example, if a designated support person has a communicable illness and it is likely that they will put others at risk due to their illness, they may be denied access to their charge or to areas of the hospital.

If a person with a disability is deprived of access to their support person for this reason, the Hospital will assume responsibility for the basic care of the individual with a disability. If possible, situations requiring the separation of individual and support person will be discussed with the individual in advance and appropriate measures taken.

The Hospital may also require the presence of a support person, if it is deemed by staff that a significant amount of risk is incurred by an individual with a disability who is attempting to access hospital services without assistance

Departments Affected

All Hospital employees, volunteers and any individual or organization that provides goods, services or facilities to the public or other third parties on behalf of the Hospital in accordance with the legislation.

Definitions

Disability:

- a) Any degree of physical disability, infirmity, malformation or disfigurement that is caused by bodily injury, birth defect or illness and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes diabetes mellitus, epilepsy, brain injury, any degree of paralysis, amputation, lack of physical co-ordination, blindness or visual impediment, deafness or hearing impediment, muteness or speech impediment, or physical reliance on a guide dog or other animal or on a wheelchair or remedial appliance or device.
- b) a condition of mental impairment or a development disability,
- c) a learning disability, or a dysfunction in one or more of the processes involved in understanding or using symbols or spoken language,
- d) a mental disorder, or
- e) an injury or disability for which benefits were claimed or received under the insurance plan established under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997.

Support Person: In relation to a person with a disability, another person who accompanies him or her in order to help with communication, mobility, personal care or medical needs or with access to goods and services.

References

The Ottawa Hospital Accessibility Policy, December 17, 2012
Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (Ont. Reg. 191-11)
Bill 103, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act, 2005 (AODA)