Cancer Care Program

Updated visitor restriction information pertaining to cancer patients

Recognizing the fine balance between the real needs for emotional support and the implications of spreading COVID-19 in our treatment areas to vulnerable patients, the following visitor/companion policy was implemented at 0800, Tuesday, March 24.

Except under exceptional circumstances (e.g. mobility concerns, substitute decision maker in place, etc.) patients must attend appointments alone as per NSHA guidelines.

Inpatients

We are encouraging the family members of cancer patients to adhere to the no-visitor restriction. If a patient has unique physical, emotional or cognitive complexity we will make an exception and allow one visitor to be present.

Treatment

We are not permitting companions in the treatment venues, as the physical layout makes social distancing difficult and the vast majority of patients are immunocompromised.

Ambulatory clinics

In keeping with cancer centers across Canada, the NSHA cancer care program will permit patients who are having their first appointment to bring one companion with them.

We will also be giving them the option to join in via phone/Facetime should companions not wish to enter the facility. For subsequent clinic visits, we are asking patients respect the no visitor restriction but will make exceptions if the patient has unique physical, emotional or cognitive complexity impacting their ability to attend alone.