

**St. Alexius Medical Center
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

Department: Level II Nursery with Exception	Policy Number:
Title:	Distribution:
Subject: Parent Partnership in the Level II Nursery	Date Issued: Date Revised: 2/08 Date Amended: Date Suspended:
Administrative Signature(if needed):	Departmental Signature:

I. Policy

1. Parents are essential partners with the health care team in caregiving and decision making for their infants. They are welcome to be with their infant 24 hours per day.
2. Other family/friends are welcomed when they accompany the parents.
3. All family and friends must be free of communicable diseases.
4. Siblings are welcomed at the infant's bedside with their parents.
 - a. Siblings should be prepared for the hospital environment and the infant's illness as appropriate.
 - b. Sibling's behavior is monitored by the parents and the nurse to ensure a safe and restful environment for the infant(s).
 - c. Siblings are to be under family supervision at all times.
5. The number of people welcomed at the bedside will be determined with the parents to meet the needs of the infant, family and unit.
 - a. There may be situations where no more than 2 people will be able to be with the infant.
6. If the parent/guardians are unable to be with their baby due to extenuating circumstances such as:
 - a) maternal hospitalization at another facility, b) prolonged illness or c) family obligation requiring travel out of town, the parent or guardian may make temporary, special arrangements with the SCN charge nurse to enable a designated friend or family member to be with their baby during their absence.
 - a. Parent/guardian authorization of this special arrangement must be documented and must include:
 - i. Name of family or friend
 - ii. Relationship to the infant
 - iii. Copy of government issued identification with photo ID. (e.g. passport, driver's license) will be added to the medical record.
 - iv. The designated family or friend may not bring other family and friends to be with the baby.
 - v. The amount and type of updates given to this person will be decided by the parent.

I. Procedure

1. Upon arrival to the SCN, the parents will be greeted by staff.
2. The ID band will be checked if the nurse is not familiar with the parents. Refer to the Banding System Policy.
3. All family and friends will scrub one time each day. When returning to the bedside, only hand washing/cleaning is necessary.
4. To ensure that all family and friends are healthy when coming to the nursery, the nurse will inquire regarding the presence of communicable diseases.

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Department:	Policy Number: (Continued)
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