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Accessibility-Support Person			
Date Issued: July 30, 2012 Date Review/Revised: January 24, 2025 Next Review Date: January 24, 2027			
Owner: Director of Facilities	Reviewer(s): Senior Leadership Team	Approver: CEO	
Cross Reference: •			

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Policy

Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) is committed to promoting, providing and maintaining an environment where respect and dignity is demonstrated at all times. The right of the individual to be accompanied by a support person, except where excluded by law is supported by AMGH.

Standard

- Support persons may accompany people with disabilities in all areas of the hospital except where excluded by law.
- Where a support person is excluded by law, AMGH will accommodate alternative ways for the person with disabilities to access our goods and services.
- Support persons may be permitted in areas where some sterile procedures occur in accordance with the Health Promotion and Protection Act including but not limited to:
 - Operating Rooms,
 - Minor Procedure Rooms (case specific)
 - In any room where radiation exposure occurs (X-ray, CT)
- Staff will inform the person with a disability of areas where the presence of a support person is not allowed prior to their arrival (where possible) and will develop an accessibility plan with the individual identifying alternate support arrangements.
- Confidentiality and privacy of the person with a disability and other clients will be respected at all times by staff and may be requested of the support person where applicable (i.e. group counseling sessions)
- Staff may request a support person be provided by the patient in order to protect the health and welfare of a person with disability.
- Patients with disabilities must be allowed to use their support persons while accessing your organization's goods or services on the parts of the premises open to the public or third parties. If Alexandra Marine and General Hospital charges for admission, the hospital is required to have a policy regarding what amount, if any, is charged for support persons. Advance notification of a fee, if any, is required.

- Notice of the availability of Alexandra Marine and General Hospital Accessibility policies will be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises and/or on the Alexandra Marine and General Hospital web page (the intranet and internet).
- All policies and procedure documents related to Accessibility will be available to the public, in a format agreed upon with the person with a disability.

Guidelines

- Support person role:
 - Individual hired or chosen to accompany a person with a disability to provide services or assistance with communication, mobility, personal care, medical needs or access to goods or services.
 - Provides care needs:
 - Personal care needs including but not limited to assistance with eating or using the washroom.
 - Medical needs may include, but are not limited to, monitoring the person with a disability's health conditions, providing injections and providing support when someone has moderate to severe seizures.
 - Support person can be a paid personal support worker, volunteer, a friend or a family member. He or she does not necessarily need to have special training or qualifications.
- Interacting with a patient who has a support person:
 - The person with a disability may not introduce their support person. If you are not sure which person is the patient, take your lead from the person using or requesting your service and/or simply ask.
 - Once you have determined who the patient is, speak directly to them, not to their support person.
 - Staff should be familiar with AMGH policies, practices and procedures about providing accessible customer service.
- Person with disability and support person role:

Person with a Disability	Support Person's Functions
Person who is deaf/blind	To guide, to provide transportation and adaptive communication such as tactile or adapted American Sign language, large print notes, print on palm or two-handed manual signing.
Person who is deaf, deafened, oral deaf	To provide sign language or oral interpretation services - to translate conversation, not to participate in it.
Person with a learning disability	To help with complex communication or note-taking.
Person with an intellectual/ developmental disability	To help with travel, daily activities, prompting medication, complex tasks, or to keep them from dangerous situations.
Person with a mental health disability	To help with communication tasks such as completing complex forms.

To help in environments such as crowded, noisy settings or high-stress situations such as interviews.

Person with a physical disability	To provide services related to traveling, personal care such as toileting or eating, monitoring medical conditions.
Person with a seizure disorder	To assist in the event of a seizure, e.g. to protect the individual from falls or biting their tongue.
Person with a speech impairment who uses an augmentative or alternative communication system (symbol board, electronic communication system)	To relay or interpret a person's communications.
Person with vision loss	To read or to guide.

Ministry of Community and Social Services. Training Resource - Customer Service Standard 429/07 Pg. 31

Reference Documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 • Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 Customer Service Standard 429/07 • Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. Taking a close look at the Standards: Impact and Implications. Ontario Hospital Association Conference November 17, 2008. Toronto, ON • Blind Persons' Rights Act. R.S., c. 40, s. 1 • Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. Training Resource: Customer Service Standard 429/07. February, 2009 • Accessibility-Support Person Corporate Manual, Cambridge Memorial Hospital, September 2009
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