



## Family/Significant Others at Birth

PREPARED BY: Michelle T. Rosa Martins, Ed.D. Director, Patient Experience and Family- Centered Care	PAGE: 1 of 2	EFFECTIVE DATE: June 13, 2023	POLICY NUMBER: WIH-OB-IN-006
REVIEWED BY: Jean Salera-Vieira, DNP, APRN-CNS, FCNS, ACNO, Professional Development	REVIEWED BY:	REVIEWED BY:	APPROVED BY: Kim Francis, PHD, RN, PHCNS-BC, Chief Nursing Officer

- I. Purpose.** The purpose of this *Family/Significant Others at Birth* policy (this “Policy”) is to promote family-centered obstetrical care.
- II. Scope.** This policy applies to allow patients to identify their chosen support persons in the labor process.
- III. Policy.** It is the policy of Women & Infants Hospital that we provide opportunities for family and/or significant other support for our obstetric patients in accordance with safety and infection prevention guidelines.
- IV. Procedure.**
  1. The patient may be accompanied by two (2) significant others/support persons and one (1) doula, as identified by the patient, on admission to the LDR. Refer to policy, [Infant Identification – Security](#).
    - The patient may be accompanied by one (1) significant other/support person at a Cesarean birth and one (1) doula.
    - For operative births, this alternate to the plan of care is documented on a Special Needs Care Plan (see policy: [Special Needs Plan of Care](#)).
  2. The request for an additional support person is granted in consultation with the primary nurse and is dependent upon the patient’s needs and condition.
  3. Based on patient needs and condition, significant others/support persons may be asked to leave the room.
  4. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to appropriately prepare and counsel the sibling(s) regarding their participation in the birth prior to the onset of labor/delivery.
  5. All children under 12 years of age must have an adult support person who is not the birthing patient. The child/children’s support person(s) must be attuned to the child/children’s needs and responses and is willing to leave with the child/children if this becomes necessary.

6. For a special addendum to this policy, the patient/family is advised to contact the unit manager prior to admission.
7. Such alterations to the plan of care are documented on a Special Needs Care Plan.

**V. Definitions.** Terms not already defined in this Policy have the following meanings: N/A

**REFERENCES:** N/A

**APPROVAL/REVISION:**

10/2013: Initial Version of Policy approved

05/2017: Revision approved

6/30/2020: Revision approved

06/13/2023: Revision approved

**REPLACES:** Change policy number 12/2021 - replaces WIH-PT-316