

SUBJECT: PATIENT NON DISCRIMINATION	REFERENCE #
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DEPARTMENT: DISTRICT WIDE	EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2014
APPROVED BY: Lynn A. Peterson, MSN, RN	REVISED: March 30, 2017

Reviewed Sept. 12, 2018

Patient Non-Discrimination Policy

Scope: This policy applies to all members of the **Newport Hospital & Health Services** workforce, including employees, medical staff members, contracted service providers, and volunteers, and to all vendors, representatives, and any other individuals providing services to or on behalf of **Newport Hospital & Health Services** ("Hospital Personnel").

Purpose: To ensure that all patients and visitors of **Newport Hospital & Health Services** are treated with equality, in a welcoming, nondiscriminatory manner, consistent with applicable state and federal law.

Policy: **Newport Hospital & Health Services** is dedicated to providing services to patients and welcoming visitors in a manner that respects, protects, and promotes patient rights.

1. Hospital Personnel will treat all patients and visitors receiving services from or participating in other programs of **Newport Hospital & Health Services** and its affiliated clinics with equality in a welcoming manner that is free from discrimination based on age, race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, veteran or military status, or any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local law.

2. Hospital Personnel will inform patients of the availability of and make reasonable accommodations for patients consistent with federal and state requirements. For example, the hospital will attempt to make reasonable accommodations to provide language interpretation services for non-English speaking patients and sign language interpretation for hearing impaired patients.

3. Hospital Personnel will afford visitation rights to patients free from discrimination based on age, race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, veteran or military status, or any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local

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law and will ensure that visitors receive equal visitation privileges consistent with patient preferences.

4. Any person who believes that he, she, or another person has been subjected to discrimination which is not permitted by this Policy, may file a complaint using **Newport Hospital & Health Services** complaint and grievance procedure.

5. Hospital Personnel are prohibited from retaliating against any person who opposes, complains about, or reports discrimination, files a complaint, or cooperates in an investigation of discrimination or other proceeding under federal, state, or local anti-discrimination law.

Procedure:

1. **Newport Hospital & Health Services Corporate Compliance Officer/Patient Representative or designee** is responsible for coordinating compliance with this Policy, including giving notice to and training all Hospital Personnel on this Policy.

2. Hospital Personnel will determine eligibility for and provide services, financial aid, and other benefits to all patients in a similar manner, without subjecting any individual to separate or different treatment on the basis of age, race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, veteran or military status, or any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local law.

3. Hospital Personnel will provide notices to patients regarding this Nondiscrimination Policy and **Newport Hospital & Health Service's** commitment to providing access to and the provision of services in a welcoming, nondiscriminatory manner.

4. At the time patients are notified of their patient rights, Hospital Personnel will also inform each patient, or the patient's support person, including the patient's attorney in fact, when appropriate, of the patient's visitation rights, including any clinical restriction on those rights, and the patient's right, subject to the patient's consent, to receive visitors whom the patient designates, free of discrimination based upon age, race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, veteran or military status, or any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local law. Such visitors include a spouse, another family member, friend, or a legal representative of the patient, such as an attorney-in-

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fact. Hospital Personnel will also notify patients of their right to withdraw or deny such consent at any time. Hospital Personnel will afford such visitors equal visitation privileges consistent with the patient's preferences.

5. Any Hospital Personnel receiving a patient or visitor discrimination complaint will advise the complaining individual that he or she may report the problem to **Julie Lohman, Privacy Officer, (509) 447-2441 ext. 4515 or e-mail Julie.Lohman@nhhsqualitycare.org** and file a complaint without fear of retaliation.