



DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES

Carol Beatty, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Robert R. Neall, Secretary

NOTICE - Access to Support for Patients with Disabilities in Health Care Settings (September 24, 2020)

All licensed Maryland hospitals, related institutions, freestanding medical facilities, freestanding ambulatory care facilities, chronic disease centers, hospice care facilities, comprehensive rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, and assisted living programs (collectively health care providers) shall adopt policies on or before **October 1, 2020** that both comply with applicable U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance and State and federal regulations and recognize the rights and needs of individuals with disabilities. **This Notice replaces the Notice to Patients with Disabilities in Hospital Settings from May 11, 2020.**

Such policies shall include, at a minimum:

- Provisions authorizing support persons to accompany, visit, and stay with individuals with disabilities during their visits to health care providers.
- Provisions for the designation of support persons who may accompany, visit, and stay with individuals with disabilities during their visits to health care providers.
- Provisions defining a support person as a family member, personal care assistant, similar disability service provider, or other individual knowledgeable about the management or care of the patient who is authorized to assist the patient in making decisions.
- Provisions establishing a process for individuals with disabilities to propose other reasonable accommodations that also comply with the health care's infection control policy.

Health care providers shall also adopt policies regarding communications with families and caregivers of patients with disabilities who do not have a support person present during the patient's visit. Health care providers shall explain these policies to patients' support persons, preferably before the patients arrive at the health care provider.

All support persons shall be subject to screening for COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival at the health care provider and periodically during their stay, if appropriate. Persons with COVID-19 symptoms shall not be permitted to serve as a support person and must immediately leave the hospital. In addition, health care providers shall provide appropriate PPE, and all support persons shall be required to don that PPE and comply with health care provider policies regarding use and conservation of that PPE.

All health care providers shall provide a copy of their policies regarding support persons for those with disabilities to all patients and shall post a copy of this notice in an area accessible to all patients. In addition, health care providers shall post a copy of the attached notice regarding remedies for violation of this notice in an area accessible to patients and shall provide a copy to all patients.

Failures to comply with this notice may result in the imposition of sanctions in accordance with applicable regulations.

Carol A. Beatty
Secretary, Department of Disabilities

Robert R. Neall
Secretary, Department of Health

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.410.578.5071

注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1.410.578.5071

주의: 한국어를 사용하시는 경우, 언어 지원 서비스를 무료로 이용하실 수 있습니다. 1.410.578.5071 번으로 전화해 주십시오.

CHÚ Ý: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn. Gọi số 1.410.578.5071

ATTENTION: Si vous parlez français, des services d'aide linguistique vous sont proposés gratuitement. Appelez le 1.410.578.5071

PAUNAWA: Kung nagsasalita ka ng Tagalog, maaari kang gumamit ng mga serbisyo ng tulong sa wika nang walang bayad. Tumawag sa 1.410.578.5071

ВНИМАНИЕ: Если вы говорите на русском языке, то вам доступны бесплатные услуги перевода. Звоните 1.410.578.5071

ማስታወሻ: የሚናገሩት ቋንቋ አማርኛ ከሆነ የትርጉም እርዳታ ድርጅቶቻችን በነጻ ሊያግዝዎት ተዘጋጅተዋል። ወደ ሚስተለው ቁጥር ይደውሉ 1.410.578.5071

Dè dɛ nià kɛ dyédɛ gbo: ɔ jũ ké m̄ [Bàsɔ̀-wùdù-po-nyò] jũ ní, níí, à wuɖu kà kò dò po-poò b̄éin m̄ gbo kpáa. ɗá 1.410.578.5071

Ige nti: O buru na asu lbo asusu, enyemaka diri gi site na call 1.410.578.5071

AKIYESI: Ti o ba nso ede Yoruba ofe ni iranlowo lori ede wa fun yin o. E pe ero ibanisoro yi 1.410.578.5071

خبردار: اگر آپ اردو بولتے ہیں، تو آپ کو زبان کی مدد کی خدمات مفت میں دستیاب ہیں۔ کال کریں 1.410.578.5071

توجه: اگر بہ زبان فارسی گفتگو می کنید، تسهیلات زبان 1.410.578.5071

ATANSYON: Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen, gen sèvis èd pou lang ki disponib gratis pou ou. Rele 1.410.578.5071

ATENÇÃO: Se fala português, encontram-se disponíveis serviços linguísticos, grátis. Ligue para 1.410.578.5071