

Manual: Patient Focused	Policy No: PM.PASTORAL
Section: 1 – Ethics, Rights & Responsibilities	Policy: Pastoral Care
Eff. Date: 09/01/08	Page: 1 of 1

Purpose: To provide for the spiritual needs of patients, family members, and hospital staff and to assist clergy visiting their church members.

Policy:

1. The hospital provides pastoral care for patients, their family members, and hospital employees by calling the patient’s priest or pastor upon request.
2. The hospital shall allow members of the clergy to visit patients of the hospital during a declared public health emergency when a patient, or the patient’s designated representative, requests a visit with a member of the clergy, subject to the following:
 - a. The clergy member will be screened for infectious agents or infectious diseases, utilizing the current screening and/or testing methods and protocols in place for the hospital.
 - b. The clergy member may not be allowed to visit a hospital patient if such clergy member has obvious signs or symptoms of an infectious agent or infectious disease, or if such clergy member tests positive for an infectious agent or infectious disease.
 - c. The clergy member may not be allowed to visit a hospital patient if the clergy member refuses to comply with the provisions of this policy, subject to the discretion of clinical leadership.
 - d. The clergy member will be required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), if determined appropriate by the hospital, considering the patient’s medical condition or clinical considerations. PPE will be made available to the clergy member at the hospital’s discretion.
 - e. The clergy member will comply with any federal and/or state health orders, regulations, requirements, guidelines, and/or laws limiting visitation.
 - f. The patient has the right to consensual, nonsexual physical contact, for example, hand holding or hugging, with members of clergy.

Reference:	Revised/Approved:
Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 48: Part I: Chapter 93: Subchapter B: §9336. Visitation by Members of the Clergy during a Declared Public Health Emergency	Board of Managers: 09/01/08; 11/16/09; 3/21/11; 3/19/12; 5/20/13; 5/19/14; 5/18/15; 5/16/16; 5/15/17; 5/21/18; 5/20/19; 7/20/20; 5/17/21, 5/16/22, 5/15/23; 5/20/24; 03/05/25