**Hospital Family Presence and Visitation Key Talking Points**

As we move into a post-pandemic era, we are reassessing visitation restrictions that were necessary to protect patients and staff from infection and help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

While visitation was limited, many hospitals observed a number of benefits, including quiet time for patients to rest and recover, a more peaceful or productive work environment, and enhanced security. However, we know that patients benefit from the presence of family or support persons during hospitalization. To create the best possible environment for patient care, we are implementing new visitation policies effective \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

First and foremost, our policies are meant to ensure patient safety, privacy and quality of care while also encouraging involvement of designated family and support partners as members of the care team.

We encourage social visitors to limit visitation and consider alternatives such as virtual technology or post-discharge visits. Visitors can be a critical part of the recovery process after hospitalization when patients may need more help with errands, meals and transportation.

Our policies were guided by lessons learned during the pandemic, recommendations from care team members, and the work of the South Carolina Hospital Association’s Task Force on Hospital Family Presence and Visitation.

The SCHA task force, made up of 16 hospital leaders with diverse expertise and perspectives, has developed templates, best practices and other resources to help hospitals design visitation programs that best suit local needs.

Certain areas of the hospital will have unique visitation guidelines, such as units requiring patient isolation. The comprehensive visitation plan is available at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

We will continue to monitor guidance of health officials throughout the pandemic and may readjust visitation depending on the situation.