

Geary Community Hospital

TITLE: Family Members During Ultrasound Exams

DEPARTMENT: Radiology

POLICY: Diagnostic ultrasound procedures are medical exams, therefore, it is the policy of the Ultrasound Department that only the patient and the sonographer will be in the exam room during the ultrasound procedure.

Having family members and children in the room can distract the sonographer from his/her professional duties.

OB Sonograms, in particular can be very complex and time consuming to obtain the needed measurements for a diagnostic report. There also may be information that needs to be documented on the screen that should only be information for the radiologist and /or physician.

PURPOSE: To provide the sonographer the environment to focus and concentrate on providing quality images for the best diagnosis without interruption or distractions.

PROCEDURES:

1. All Ultrasound procedures
 - A. All family members will stay in the waiting room or ER waiting area while the patient is having their ultrasound exam.
2. OB Ultrasound
 - A. The sonographer will take the patient back to the department for the ultrasound exam.
 - B. The spouse and/or family will wait in the waiting room until the sonographer has completed the exam
 - C. The spouse or one family member will then be brought into the exam room to “look” at the fetus.
 - D. All cell phones need to be turned off while in the exam room.
 - E. No photos are allowed to be taken in the exam room.
 - F. Technologists are not allowed to discuss the results of the exam with patients.

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3. Exceptions to this policy:

- A. If there is a question of fetal demise. The patient will be allowed one family member in the room with them.
- B. If the patient is handicapped, mentally disabled or a minor, they will be allowed one family member in the room with them.
- C. If the patient is unable to speak English, an interpreter will be allowed to help the language barrier.

(For each of the exceptions, the family member or support member, will stay at the top(head) of the bed during the exam).

Date Established: April 2009

Date(s) Reviewed: January 2011,
December 2016

Date(s) Revised: January 2011
December 2016

Approval(s): Radiologist: December 2016