



Patient Behavior Guidelines

At University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC)

UWMC has patient rooms, clinics, offices, and public spaces. We have the right to take whatever actions are needed to maintain a safe environment in all of these areas

This handout is for staff to give to any patient who behaves in ways that are not in keeping with UWMC's Workplace Violence Prevention Policy.

Our staff and doctors have the right to practice patient care in a safe place. It is also UWMC's responsibility to make sure the hospital is a safe place for our patients and their visitors.

About These Guidelines

UWMC welcomes you and your family and friends. These behavior guidelines help ensure the safe care and well-being of all our patients, visitors, and staff.

UWMC does not tolerate any act or threat of violence of any kind, or allow any person to disrupt medical center activities.

For the safety of all, anyone who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or any other mind-altering substances will not be allowed in the medical center.



The Department of Public Safety at UWMC thanks you for helping to keep the medical center a safe place for everyone.

Ensuring a Safe Environment

- **Your care may be stopped or you may be banned from UWMC if you:**
 - Threaten, intimidate, harass, or verbally or physically assault a staff member, family member, visitor, or other patient.
 - Act in an intimidating or aggressive way toward staff, visitors, or other patients.
 - Have a dangerous item, use an item in a dangerous way, or have or use a weapon of any type.
 - Act in a loud, disruptive, lewd, or other way that affects your care, the care of other patients, or interferes with the duties of staff.



UWMC is a tobacco-free facility. Use of tobacco products or e-cigarettes is prohibited inside the hospital or anywhere outside on hospital property.

Also, Federal Law prohibits possession of marijuana and marijuana products inside the hospital or anywhere outside on hospital property.

- Have with you or are under the influence of alcohol or other mind-altering substances.
- Use tobacco in your room, a bathroom, or any other place on hospital property. You may not use cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, vaping, or any other form of tobacco anywhere inside or outside the building.
- Leave your area of care or the medical center against medical advice.
- Photograph or record staff without their verbal or written consent.
- It is important that you work with your doctor and other members of your care team so that we may provide the best care for you. If your behavior makes it hard for us to provide your care, we will create a “Behavior Expectation Agreement” that you must follow.
- When needed, you must follow guidelines about wearing a mask, gown, or other items to protect others from illness.
- We welcome family and friends to visit you in the hospital. Children under the age of 12 must be watched by a responsible adult, **other than the patient**, at all times. Children under age 12 may **not** be left alone with the patient.
- For your health and safety, you must get permission from your nurse before leaving your care unit, unless you have made other plans with your care team.
- Leave valuables such as money, jewelry, laptops, and electronic devices at home. If you have these items with you, please send them home with a family member or friend. We are not responsible for loss or theft. We cannot reimburse you for any lost or stolen items.

“Quiet Hours” Are 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

We encourage quiet at all times in the hospital. We also have special “quiet hours” from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. During these hours, we ask that you:

- Mute any electronic devices and place them on vibrate only.
- Keep voices low.
- Make every effort to keep all noise levels low for the sake of patients who are resting.
- Wear a headset to help reduce noise if you wish to watch TV during quiet hours. Ask a nurse for ear plugs and headsets that you may use.

Questions?

Your safety is important. Call the Security Desk if you have questions or concerns: 206.598.5555. Or, ask a UWMC staff person for help.