

## McGuire Memorial

### Policy and Procedure

DEPARTMENT: All Department

SUBJECT: Compassionate Caregivers

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 20, 2020

APPROVAL: Name   
Title: President/CEO

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**PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines for the Compassionate Caregiver program and to ensure safety for all clients and caregivers participating in the program.

**POLICY:** In accordance with the Guidance on COVID-19 for Personal Care Homes, Assisted Living Residences, and Private Intermediate Care Facilities released by the PA Department of Human Services, when not in the midst of an outbreak, Compassionate Care should be accessible to the residents who meet the criteria for visits from Compassionate Caregivers to maintain or improve a resident's health and well-being. Compassionate Caregivers must abide by specific criteria in order to enter the facility or residential home.

**RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE:** The director of the respective residential program which will be honoring the Compassionate Care request will be responsible for overseeing the initiation and ongoing participation of Compassionate Caregivers.

**METHODOLOGY:**

Compassionate Care, in the context provided by the PA Department of Human Services, can be defined as a documented "significant change" in a resident's condition, an end-of-life situation, bereavement due to the loss of a loved one, or an emotional support for a resident who has just moved into a licensed setting and is adjusting to their new surroundings. A "significant change" should be considered as:

A major decline or improvement in the resident's status that will not normally resolve itself without further intervention by staff or by implementing standard disease-related clinical interventions, that has an impact on more than one area of the residents health status, and requires interdisciplinary review or revision of the care plan, or both.

If other circumstances develop, which the facility, resident, and resident's designated representative agree that Compassionate Care may help to alleviate, this could be considered and the justification documented.

**PROCEDURE:**

Compassionate Caregivers should adhere to the following steps and recommended safety precautions:

JJA 10/09/20  
DAK 10/21/20

- Caregivers must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test that was administered within the prior seven days before initiating caregiver duties. Caregivers are responsible for arranging for and covering the cost of testing
- Caregivers must adhere to all of McGuire's safety guidelines, which include always wearing a face covering or other pertinent PPE and submitting to a screening upon entering the facility.
- Caregivers are not permitted to visit for more than two hours per day
- Caregivers must be eighteen years of age or older
- There should not be more than two Caregivers per resident at a time

If a Caregiver does not comply with one or more of the above practices, they will be asked to leave the facility and their Caregiver status will be reassessed by the facility in order to protect staff and residents.

The Compassionate Care visit will take place in one of the identified neutral zones. The first visit will be observed by professional staff to orient the Caregiver to specific safety measures the Caregiver will need to take to protect themselves and the resident (i.e. hand sanitizer stations, location of personal care items, phone, and phone directory). After the first visit, professional staff will occasionally check in to ensure safety measures are being adhered to at all times.

- ❖ If there is a COVID outbreak at the facility, Compassionate Care may be suspended until further notice.
- ❖ COVID-19 testing can change at any time based upon the facilities testing protocol, and this includes Compassionate Caregivers.
- ❖ The Compassionate Caregiver is subject to all ongoing testing guidelines that apply to facility staff as set forth by the PA Department of Health, CMS, CDC, or PA ODP.