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|  <p>Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg Caring for Health À l'écoute de notre santé</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POLICY</p> | <p>REGIONAL</p> <p>Applicable to all WRHA governed and funded sites / facilities / hospitals / personal care homes, unless specifically excluded</p> | | <p>Level:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> |
| | <p>Policy Name:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Elections & Political Access</p> | <p>Policy Number:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10.30.030</p> | <p>Page</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 of 2</p> |
| | <p>Approval Signature:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Original signed by A. Wilgosh</i></p> | <p>Section:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</p> | |
| | <p>Date:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">April 2011</p> | <p>Supercedes:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">March 2007</p> | |

1.0 **PURPOSE:**

To ensure effective and efficient processes are in place to manage political requests for access to patients, residents and clients at Sites or Facilities while maintaining the neutrality of all Sites or Facilities and protecting the ongoing care and privacy of patients, residents and clients, during a campaign period (as defined by the appropriate legislation or regulator, e.g. Elections Manitoba).

2.0 **DEFINITIONS:**

- 2.1 **Sites or Facilities:** all WRHA directly owned or operated Sites and Facilities and all WRHA funded sites and facilities that are wholly or primarily funded by the WRHA, including those with Service Purchase Agreements.
- 2.2 **Candidate:** any person seeking elected office.
- 2.3 **Party:** any registered political party at any level, municipal, provincial or federal.
- 2.4 **Special Interest Groups:** any organization or individual advocating or lobbying on behalf of a Candidate, Party or for a specific issue.

3.0 **POLICY:**

- 3.1 The WRHA and its Sites or Facilities shall:
- Recognize that patients, clients and residents have the right to take part in and exercise their democratic rights.
 - Treat all Candidates, Parties and Special Interest Groups fairly.
 - Ensure compliance with *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Manitoba) and *The Personal Health Information Act* (Manitoba).
- 3.2 Political requests to meet with patients and clients, other than those who are in long-term care or residential care, shall be denied unless the patient or client stay is anticipated to be longer than the campaign period. Over the course of a campaign period, Candidates, Parties and Special Interest Groups would be able to contact the vast majority of patients and clients at the address of their enumeration.

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- 3.3 Because long-term care and residential care facilities are the primary residences for their patients, clients and residents, reasonable attempts will be made to accommodate requests to meet with patients, residents and clients in long- term or residential care under the following conditions:
- That the visit not interfere in the ongoing care of any patient, client or resident.
 - That Candidates meet with patients, residents or clients in a group setting.
 - That Candidates are not accompanied by members of the media or anyone with photography, videography or audio recording equipment.
 - That each Candidate running for election within the electoral boundaries that contains the Site or Facility, as well as the party s/he represents, will have a single opportunity to visit the requested Site or Facility, upon request.
 - That every Special Interest Group will also have a single opportunity to visit a Site or Facility, upon request.
 - That the distribution of invitations or notification of the visit will be managed by the Site or Facility.
 - That the name of any patient, resident or client or any other identifiable information, will not be provided to a Candidate, Party or Special Interest Group by the Site or Facility.
 - That Site or Facility staff will provide mobility assistance to residents who are interested in attending as required.
- 3.4 All Candidates, Parties and Special Interest Groups may submit written information to the Sites or Facility Communications representative, who will make the information accessible.
- 3.5 No Candidates, Parties or Special Interest Groups shall be permitted access to any Site or Facility for the purpose of photography in support of election materials, announcements or for holding media events..
- 3.6 No nomination meetings shall be held in any Site or Facility.
- 3.7 No member of management or staff of a Site or Facility shall solicit visits from Candidates, Parties or Special Interest Groups to the Site or Facility.

4.0 **PROCEDURE:**

- 4.1 Any Candidate, Party or Special Interests Group wanting access to any Site or Facility shall contact or be referred to the WRHA Director of Media Relations or the Site or Facility Communications representative.
- 4.2 The Site or Facility Communications representative and the WRHA Director of Media Relations will notify each other of any such request and work collaboratively to respond to them.

5.0 **REFERENCES:**

WRHA Candidate Access Guidelines (revised November 2005).

Policy Contact: *Heidi Graham, Director, Media Relations,
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