

<b>Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance</b>	
<b>Patient Care</b>	Original Issue Date: March 12, 2010
<b>Accessibility - User of Support Persons By Persons With Disabilities</b>	Review/Effective Date: March 26, 2010
<b>Approved By: Chief Executive Officer</b>	Next Review Date: October 05, 2012

This is a CONTROLLED document for internal use only.

Any documents appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against the document (titled as above) on the file server prior to use.

**Policy Statement:**

Through accessibility planning and with the guidance of the Accessibility Committee, the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) will strategically identify, remove and prevent as many barriers as possible for those persons with disabilities. The HPHA is committed to the continual improvement of access for all those with disabilities, and will welcome all persons to our hospitals by providing access to goods and services that respect the independence, dignity, integration and equal opportunity of persons with disabilities.

**Objective:**

To permit people with disabilities who use a support person to bring that person with them while accessing goods or services in premises open to the public or third parties.

**Procedure:**

Some people with disabilities rely on support persons for certain services or assistance, such as using the washroom or facilitating communication. The HPHA will allow support persons to accompany a person with a disability as long as it does not involve a health and safety risk.

In cases where confidentiality is important due to the nature of information being discussed, the support person may be required to sign a confidentiality agreement. Before discussing confidential information, staff must seek the consent of the person with a disability.

**Definitions:**

A support person is an individual hired or chosen by a person with a disability to provide services or assistance with communication, mobility, personal care, medical needs or with access to goods or services. Personal care needs may include, but are not limited to, physically transferring an individual from one location to another or assisting an individual with eating or using the washroom. Medical needs may include, but are not limited to, monitoring an individual's health or providing medical support by being available in the event of a seizure.

The support person could be a paid personal support worker, a volunteer, a friend or a family member. He or she does not necessarily need to have special training or qualifications.

**Appendices:**

N/A

 AW Signature

Approved by: