



June 18, 2020

Chief Medical Officer

\*All Indy & Surrounding County Hospitals  
Address

Dear Doctor,

Thank you for all you have been doing, and continue to do, to keep patients and the community safe during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

We are the Executive Committee for the Indianapolis Medical Society and we represent 1,000 physicians in Indianapolis, Marion County, and surrounding counties. Our mission is to promote professional growth, advocate for all physicians, and provide quality health care for the community. We are contacting you to today regarding quality patient care.

The actions and policies of your organization affect many aspects of hospital life but also patient care. We appreciate the tough decisions you make daily to keep physicians, staff, patients, and their families safe during this global pandemic. As you continue to consider and formulate your patient visit policies as this health crisis evolves, we are writing to bring to your attention an unintended consequence of some of the restrictive patient visitor / patient accompanied persons policies that may be placing some patients at risk. Family members of some of our cognitively impaired patients have reported that, citing COVID-19 policies, family members have not been permitted to accompany their cognitively impaired family members to clinic or emergency department visits. This raises the concern that an adequate history was not obtained from the cognitively impaired patient, and that subsequently appropriate follow-up care did not occur because of limited understanding and/or recall related to the cognitive impairment of the patient.

We would ask that each patient have the opportunity to receive the best care possible according to their circumstances, and that the health system policies do not unduly burden any one group of patients. We understand the necessity for the policy due to the pandemic. However, for cognitively impaired patients, we would like to see changes that would include making allowances for this disability by including a family member or other caregiver in their health care.

We would be happy to provide any support or additional information if necessary. Thank you for your time and consideration. Most of all, thank you for everything you do for our hospital system, physicians, and community. Please contact us at 317-639-3406 or [president@indymedicalsociety.org](mailto:president@indymedicalsociety.org) with any additional follow up questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Eric E. Tibesar, MD  
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