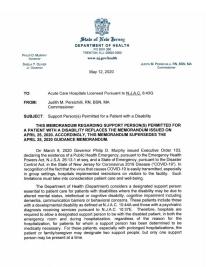


Dear Colleague,

The New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) issued a policy permitting support persons to stay with hospitalized patients with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) on April 25, 2020. The Arc of New Jersey disseminated that policy in an email on April 27th.

The New Jersey DOH issued an updated policy on May 12, 2020, which replaces the earlier policy, and it is available here:



The new policy is very similar to the previous one, with the main changes pertaining to the following:

- A clarification on having two support persons designated, especially with a
 prolonged hospitalization, but only one support person can be present at a
 time. Both support persons are subject to the same requirements of being tested,
 and they are permitted to have only extremely limited access to other areas of the
 hospital.
- The support person is permitted to leave and re-enter the hospital, but must be rescreened. Furthermore, hospitals should encourage the support person to remain at the hospital, if possible, to preserve PPE.
- Individuals who are age 70 and older are *not* encouraged to be support persons at the hospital because of increased risk for COVID-19 infection.

This is one of many emails that The Arc of New Jersey is distributing in an effort to help individuals with I/DD, their families, and staff to be safe and healthy throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. To see other emails that The Arc of New Jersey has distributed on this topic, please go to https://www.arcnj.org/information/covid-19-updates-information.html

Thank you. Bev

Beverly Roberts

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