Chief Nursing Officer Directorate
Amanda Croft,
Chief Nursing Officer

Chief Medical Officer Directorate
Dr Gregor Smith,
Chief Medical Officer

Healthcare Quality and Improvement Directorate
Jason Leitch CBE,
National Clinical Director

NHS Scotland Directors of
Nursing
NHS Scotland Medical
Directors
NHS Board Chief Executives
NHS Board Chairs
By email

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

14 April 2021

Dear colleagues,

Thank you once again for your continued efforts in dealing with the current COVID-19 outbreak.

We wrote to you last month to let you know that as from 26 April, in line with other restrictions being lifted, every patient in Scotland will be able to have at least one visitor to provide support and connection while they are in hospital.

This decision was taken in recognition of the progress made in reducing the transmission of Covid-19, the vaccination programme continuing at pace and also recognising the severe impact the absence of support from loved ones has had on patient wellbeing and recovery.

As promised at the time, please now find attached detailed updated guidance to support you, your staff and the planning and delivery of care. This guidance will support the implementation of this gradual return to full person-centred visiting and going forward, all patients can benefit from support and contact with at least one person each in any and all levels of the national strategic framework.

We propose that this be a minimum below which we should not fall at any stage, regardless of which level in the strategic framework any area is in. This relaxation of the restrictions will be a first step towards resumption of full person-centred visiting, contingent upon consistently falling rates and prevalence.

Once again, our sincere thanks to you and all your colleagues for all you continue to do to respond to COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Croft,
Chief Nursing Officer

Dr Gregor Smith,
Chief Medical Officer

Jason Leitch
National Clinical Director

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