

## **Update to Patients Regarding Companions**

By CCMB Communications & Public Affairs

February 18, 2022 3:09 PM

As pandemic restrictions begin to slowly loosen in our province, visits to personal care homes and to patients in hospital are being allowed within certain parameters. At this point in time, CancerCare Manitoba has not received direction to alter how we are operating in the current COVID environment.

Therefore, restrictions remain in place regarding companions accompanying patients to CCMB even if companions are fully vaccinated. In special pre-approved circumstances, one companion is permitted which includes: a new patient appointment, a patient who experiences mobility challenges or other forms of personal assistance that may be required.

Patients visiting CancerCare Manitoba sites for appointments or treatments may be vulnerable because of their cancer or its treatments that can lessen the immune system response. Our current procedure to limit the number of people in CCMB sites remains in place to keep patients safe when they need to be here. As well, we need to continue to maintain social distancing requirements within our waiting rooms and other spaces.

We know it is not easy to attend a cancer appointment or treatment alone. We receive a high volume of requests to allow companions to attend with a patient; however, unfortunately at this time we cannot accommodate the volume of people we have in the past, before COVID-19, due to ongoing social distancing requirements. These measures are in place to protect patients, families and staff.

CancerCare Manitoba is actively involved in the pandemic provincial table with regard to changes in operations within health facilities related to patients, their families, and staff. We will keep you updated on any changes when these are ready to be implemented.

Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation.