



Did you know?

The Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Disabilities sent a notice to hospitals requiring policies that allow a support person to be with a person with a disability. The notice recognizes the needs of people with disabilities and follows the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, and federal laws.

1

What is a disability?

The meaning of disability in the notice is the same as in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

2

What is a "support person" in a hospital setting?

You can have a support person to help with:

- Your personal care needs
- Your social/emotional well-being
- Communication

**You may use a support person for those reasons when the service is not covered in a hospital setting.*

3

Who can use a support person?

- People with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- People with physical disabilities
- People neurocognitive disabilities, like traumatic brain injury

**These are only some examples of who can use a support person.*

4

Who can be my support person?

This list includes some examples of who can act as your support person in the hospital. There may be others.

- Family members
- Personal care assistants
- Direct support professionals

**You can designate up to 2 support persons during your hospital stay, but only one may be with you at a time.*

5

What happens once I choose a support person?

Your support person must be approved and follow hospital rules. To be approved, they must:

- Be checked for COVID-19 symptoms by hospital staff when they first arrive to the hospital and during their stay with you.
- Leave the hospital if they have COVID-19 symptoms.

**Approval to be a support person can change, if that person develops COVID-19 symptoms.*

6

What about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

All approved support persons must wear PPE, such as masks, and comply with hospital rules about the use of PPE.