



**DEPARTMENT OF SPIRITUAL CARE  
MINISTERIAL VISITATION  
Regulations, Rights, and Rules**

All ordained ministers pastoring a church have the right to visit their own parish members in WakeMed Health & Hospitals. This privilege carries with it the responsibility to be personally familiar with any guidelines or restrictions that have been established for visiting in various parts of the hospital, keeping in mind that these guidelines are designed for the privacy, welfare, and health care needs of all patients. One of these includes washing or applying antibacterial gel to your hands on the way in and out of the patient's room. Please adhere to this rule because it stops the spread of germs.

**APPLICATION:** Ordained ministers serving as pastors of local churches within a 50-mile radius of WakeMed Health & Hospitals should apply for a permanent Clergy ID Badge. Once an application is completed, please return it to the Visitor's Information Desk located in the main lobby of the hospital, or mail it to the attention of the Department of Spiritual Care.

The Director of the Department of Spiritual Care will review submitted applications. Approval depends on proper completion of the form, leaving no blanks, and having it certified by an official Board Chairperson or Lay Denominational Leader (within your denomination or church). Approval will be given only to ordained or licensed ministers pastoring a church. In the situation where a church has more than one minister, two passes will be issued: one to the senior minister (pastor) and one to the ordained, full-time staff member whom the senior minister designates. Additional badges may be issued in cases of very large congregations. Laypersons who are not full-time staff members of the church are welcome to visit patients who are members of their parish, but are asked to visit only during regular visiting hours. Upon approval, a letter outlining instructions for having a Clergy Badge made will be mailed to the minister. Once issued, the Clergy ID Badge should always be worn in the hospital. This greatly assists WakeMed staff in identifying the person as the patient's minister.

**CLERGY ID BADGES:** Clergy ID Badges are the property of the hospital. We ask that when you discontinue pastoring a local church within the WakeMed area, you return your Clergy ID Badge to the Public Safety Office at WakeMed. Please also notify the Department of Spiritual Care of any change in your status (the church you are serving, denominational affiliation, address, etc.), so that we can maintain accurate information.

**FREE PARKING FOR MINISTERS:** Ministers who have been approved to receive a Clergy ID Badge are allowed to park free at WakeMed by having their parking ticket stamped at the Visitor's Information Desk, located in the main lobby of the hospital, or in the Public Safety Office, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Medical Office Building.

**ENTERING THE HOSPITAL:** Approved ministers who are visiting a patient in any critical care unit should identify themselves to WakeMed staff in the Critical Care Family Waiting Room before entering any unit. Ministers visiting patients in other areas of the hospital are also asked to identify themselves to the patient's nurse before entering the patient's room.

Ministers who have been issued a permanent Clergy ID Badge may visit at any appropriate time in the rooms of their parish members. Ministers are permitted to make brief courtesy calls when requested by parish members to visit members of the parish member's immediate family.

At no time will ministers utilize their privilege to visit their own members as an evangelistic opportunity to make room-to-room calls to other patients or to distribute literature within the hospital. Ministers will render only the ministry that is beneficial to their parish members' health and welfare.