

# DO'S AND DON'TS OF HOSPITAL VISITATION

Do observe the Visiting Hours.

Do observe and obey all signs on door. No Visitors means no visitors.

Always knock and wait for reply before entering a room.

Remember, this is a bedroom.

Listen! Let patient choose the course of conversation.

Total silence is often appropriate.

Do keep your troubles to yourself.

Do show respect for other patients in the room.

Do leave the room during mealtime and treatments or when a doctor arrives.

Do make visits brief.

A relaxed (sitting) 5-10 minute visit is better than a hurried 20 minutes.

Do pray for the patient.

When you say you are leaving, leave.

Do not visit when you yourself are sick.

Do not wake a patient until asking a nurse.

Do not enter a room if light is burning above the door.

Do not give a patient anything to eat or drink without consulting a nurse.

Do not ask to read a patient's medical chart.

Do not ask what the diagnosis is.

If patient wants you to know, he/she will tell you.

Do not repeat what you hear. Medical information is very personal and confidential.

Do not be offended or insulted by remarks that are "out of character" with the patient.

Pain and sickness are not normal conditions.

Do not join in criticism of doctors or medical staff.

Do not tell horror stories of other people's similar medical problems.

Do not try to out-diagnose the doctor.

Do not touch the bed.

Do not touch the medical equipment.

Do not tell jokes to someone who has recently had surgery!

William G. Justice, *Don't Sit on the Bed!* (Nashville: Broadman Press), 1973.