

SUNCOAST ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY AND SPORTS MEDICINE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

TITLE: Service Dogs	POLICY NUMBER: Policy Type: Clinical xx Non-clinical
Title of Reviewer: Executive Director	Effective date: 09/22/2020 Revised Date
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POLICY: As part of our mission to provide quality care for our patients, we must follow US Department of Justice and State of Florida guidelines for the use of service dogs in our practice. Generally, Title II (government businesses) and Title III (private businesses) entities must permit service animals to accompany people with disabilities in all areas where members of the public are allowed to go. **However, According to the US Department of Justice, it is deemed appropriate to exclude the animals from environments where the animal's presence may compromise a sterile environment, i.e operating suites, or other surgical areas.** Because we may provide woundcare in any exam room, including draining and debridement, suturing , etc., and because we have a surgical suite at our Hand Center on East Venice Avenue, the admittance of a service animal will be at the sole discretion of the Medical Provider

Exceptions: Dogs whose sole purpose is to provide comfort or emotional support **DO NOT** qualify as service animals under ADA.

Definitions: Service Animals: Dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. They are working animals, **not pets**. The work that they perform must be directly related to the persons disability. Examples are:

1. Guiding people who are blind
2. Alerting people who are deaf
3. Pulling a wheelchair
4. Alerting and protecting a person who is having a seizure
5. Reminding a person with Mental illness to take prescribed medications
6. Calming a person with PTSD during an anxiety attack
7. Provide stability for people with impaired mobility

Procedure:

1. We are allowed to ask:
 - a. Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
and,
 - b. What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?
2. We are not permitted to ask for training paperwork or what a person's disability is,
3. Service animals must be under control of the handler at all times
4. We may ask that the dog be removed if they are growling, not house broken, or appears to present a danger to other patrons.

Reference: US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Disability Section and Florida State office of the Attorney General on Service Animals.

Approvals:



Administrator

9/25/2020

Date



Joseph Noah, MD

9/25/2020

Date