

Dennis Saylor in his book *...And You Visited Me!* gives the following helpful guidelines regarding hospital visitation:

1. Knock before entering.
2. Always identify yourself.
3. Walk and talk softly.
4. Shake hands only at the patient's request.
5. Have a pleasant facial expression.
6. Be brief.
7. Visit when well.
8. Remember that the patient's condition is personal.
9. Consider the patient's rights.
10. Keep your personal problems to yourself
11. Maintain eye contact.
12. If a doctor is present in the room, wait outside.

Some additional tips:

Don't wear perfume or cologne.

Make sure your breath is pleasant.

Sit in a chair to be at eye level, but don't sit on the hospital bed.

If patient is asleep or out of the room, leave a calling card or note.

Observe hospital rules.