POLICY STATEMENT:

It shall be the policy of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Ambulatory Clinics to respect patient wishes regarding the inclusion of family members and/or significant others in their care, education and treatment decisions.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all TTUHSC ambulatory clinics conducted through its Schools.

PROCEDURE:

1. To the extent that the patient agrees and approves, family and/or significant others may be contributors in obtaining patient history, participate in patient education, and be included in the development and implementation of patient treatment plans.

2. When family members or significant others participate in significant patient care decisions or instructions, documentation in the Medical Record should reflect his/her role.

3. If the patient is incompetent to make decisions, the person legally authorized to make health-care decisions for the patient is responsible for determining the extent of family or significant other participation in the development and implementation of patient treatment plans. (Also see Consent for Treatment Guidelines, 6.21.A.)

CERTIFICATION:

This policy was approved by the Council of Deans on March 10, 2011.