

Person Specific Skills for Sikh representatives for Chaplaincy-spiritual care

Entering into hospital, the experience of serious illness has a profound impact upon us all. It provides an opportunity for many to reassess our spiritual attitudes to life, to reassess our values, relationships, morals and beliefs. Because of their independence, their ability to be able to say and support those in their time of need, Sikh hospital chaplains will be required to be responsible individuals, able to volunteer and work alongside existing chaplaincy staff in trying to ensure the highest standards of chaplaincy care are delivered. The key is to be able to listen, to be trustworthy and to be able to provide some spiritual guidance and support.

Description of work, responsibilities, and inter-relationships

1. The Chaplaincy visitor will be expected to make a minimum weekly commitment of approximately two/three hours at regular times each week, alongside which, they will also be expected to undertake training days as they arise.
2. Chaplaincy visitors will be allocated to those patients requesting the visit of a Sikh chaplain.
3. The chaplaincy visitor will at all times observe the trust rules of confidentiality and will never abuse the privileged position in which they work, in particular with regard to their relationship with patients and their relatives in matters concerned with privacy, faith and freedom of religions or philosophy. If someone is found to be in breach of these rules they will be asked to withdraw their help.
4. The chaplaincy visitor will be expected to act under the direction and in consultation with the other chaplains, they will be responsible to those who have nominated them and will be directly answerable to the officials working with the Multi-Faith chaplaincy group.
5. Volunteers will be free to withdraw their support and help as any time after mutual discussion.

Training will be given both on general chaplaincy issues along with training examining the specific elements of the Sikh faith and chaplaincy care.

Person Specific Criteria

1. Be aged between 18-75
2. Be sufficiently fit to meet the physical and emotional demands of hospital visiting and be able to satisfy occupational health screening.

3. Be able to provide evidence of taking responsibility for a period of time – commitment.
 4. Have intellectual ability, sufficient for the candidate to be able to relate the story of visiting someone. e.g. a bereaved friend or a hospital patient, so as to enable supervision.
 5. Be able to relate warmly and simply in a relaxed manner.
 6. Have self Knowledge. i.e. able to talk about own disappointments and life lost, able to admit mistakes. Has awareness of own motivations and feelings underlying their desire to work as a lay visitor. Able to achieve insights into the needs and feelings of others. Can discern how renewal might come out if disaster.
 7. Have awareness of the likely effect of becoming a lay visitor on their own partner and family.
 8. Have a lively Sikh faith with habits of prayer and public worship. Able to speak of their own faith, however simply.
 9. Be open minded. Not shockable on hearing the life situation of others. Able to be non-judgemental.
 10. Be able to be aware that it is not their purpose to:
 - a. evangelize so as to persuade patients or staff of the truth of our beliefs in order to gain converts.
 - b. Be able to accept people as they are
 - c. Be able to understand and keep confidentiality
-