

Job Description

1. Job Title: Spiritual Care Practitioner

Reports to: Lead Spiritual Care Practitioner

Accountable to: Spiritual Care Service Manager

Job Family: Patient Care

Range: C

Date: October 2024

2. Job Summary

As a Spiritual Care Practitioner, you will provide holistic spiritual support to patients and those important to them across our Inpatient Unit, day services, and the North Derbyshire community. Working with multidisciplinary teams, you will assess spiritual needs, contribute to care plans, and guide individuals through important end of life conversations about hope, meaning, and belief.

You will ensure that everyone we care for has a space to express their spirituality, providing expert advice on religious and cultural beliefs and documenting spiritual care needs. By participating in community outreach and awareness initiatives, you will help foster open dialogue about death and end of life care.

Your role will be crucial in developing a compassionate, responsive spiritual care service that supports patients, and those important to them, who are facing the challenges of life limiting or incurable illnesses.

3. Organisation Chart



4. Main Duties & Responsibilities

Spiritual and Emotional Support

- Provide holistic spiritual care to patients and those important to them across the Inpatient Unit, Day Services, and Community Services, addressing spiritual, religious, ethical, and existential needs.
- Facilitate meaningful conversations on topics such as life limiting or incurable illness, belief, purpose, and end of life preferences, ensuring these are integrated into care plans.
- Support patients and those important to them through worship, meditation, funeral planning, and opportunities for religious expression, adapting to individual beliefs and cultural backgrounds.

Collaboration and Multidisciplinary Teamwork

- Work collaboratively with the multidisciplinary team (MDT) to assess and address spiritual needs, contributing to personalised care planning and supporting pre-bereavement discussions.
- Liaise with external religious leaders and local faith groups, encouraging their involvement in the life of the hospice, ensuring appropriate religious and cultural support for patients.
- Document spiritual care needs and interventions in patient records, maintaining accurate and compassionate communication across the care team.

Community Engagement and Education

- Participate in community outreach by delivering workshops, presentations, and events such as remembrance services and carol services, in partnership with the Fundraising team, to promote awareness of spiritual and end of life care.
- Support the hospice's education programme by teaching staff and volunteers on topics like spiritual care, religious diversity, loss, and bereavement.
- Contribute to the induction and ongoing education of staff and volunteers on spiritual and religious care practices, both within the hospice and the wider healthcare community.

Worship and Religious Services

- Ensure worship services within the hospice meet the needs of patients and those important to them, facilitating opportunities for religious expression and coordinating with appropriate religious leaders when needed.

Flexibility and Responsiveness

- Respond to the spiritual needs of patients and those important to them beyond normal working hours, including evenings and weekends, when required.
- Assist in the development and maintenance of resources that support spiritual care for everyone we care for.

5. Personal Development

- Take part in reflective practice and clinical supervision as required by the organisational policies to maintain effective practice.
- Be proactive in maintaining professional competencies and professional development.
- Be a member of the Association of Hospice and Palliative Care Chaplains and UK Board of Hospice Chaplaincy.

6. Communications & Working Relationships

Internal: All Ashgate teams including - Supportive Care service, Medics, Inpatient Unit teams, Community teams, Day Hospice, Volunteer Development Manager, education leads (this list is not exhaustive)

External: Other local voluntary sector organisations, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Community Health Services, Chesterfield Royal Hospital, local community organisations, Cavendish Cancer Care, Primary Care organisations.

- This Job Description describes the main duties of the post holder and is not exhaustive.
- This Job Description will be reviewed with the post holder as part of the regular performance review.
- This Job Description does not form part of the Contract of Employment.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title: Spiritual Care practitioner

1. Attainments/Qualification	
Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum of two years' experience of:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Working with people with life limiting, incurable or palliative illnesses➢ Delivering spiritual/pastoral care➢ Conducting public worship, funerals or acts of reflection• To have good standing within your own faith/belief community with evidence of spiritual/theological training• A knowledge of world religions/beliefs and their practices around death and dying	Desirable
2. Skills	
Essential <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organisational/time management skills• Ability to manage and respond to change• Excellent communication skills – clear and concise• Active listening skills• Ability to form professional relationships and work with a multi – disciplinary team/other professionals/agencies• Ability and openness to work with people of all faiths and those with none, and a genuine interest in the views/beliefs of others• A team player who values the support and trust of colleagues• Knowledge of Microsoft 365 packages including Teams, Word, Excel, Powerpoint	Desirable <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teaching and presentation skills• Demonstrate career progression and personal development• Experience of using a electronic recording system for writing up patient notes

3. Knowledge/Experience

Essential

- Evidence of an established place within a faith community
- Experience of working with people with a life limiting or incurable illness
- Awareness of current issues in palliative care/hospice chaplaincy
- Awareness of standards of professional practice
- Understanding of the needs of bereaved people

Desirable

- Experience of working in a multi disciplinary setting and with external agencies
- Teaching experience – ability to impart knowledge

4. Other factors

Essential

- Strong self-awareness
- Ability to understand and respond sensitively to the emotions and needs of others.
- Ability to remain composed and maintain a steady approach in challenging situations
- Access to independent means of travel

Desirable