

Chaplaincy



**Information for
Patients, Carers, Family and Friends**



Chaplaincy and Spirituality
Somerset Partnership

Sometimes being away from home and finding yourself in hospital can be a rather worrying experience. If you would like someone to talk to - apart from friends and family – consider speaking to a chaplain. We are happy to spend time with you and listen to your thoughts and concerns.

Spiritual Care

Chaplains believe that the whole person needs to be understood, valued and cared for and that everybody is unique, with very personal hopes and dreams and fears. We are trained listeners, who are used to being alongside patients, families and friends, who face radical changes in their lives or when difficult decisions have to be made. Our aim is to hear your concerns without imposing our own values or beliefs onto you. We hope to help you explore some feelings more deeply, as you try to make meaning in the midst of uncertainty and change.

Religious Care

Some people have specific religious needs. We will try to help you stay in touch with your religious practices and your religious community.

Quiet spaces/Prayer Rooms

Most hospitals have a chapel or quiet room designated for patients and visitors for prayer or contemplation. Please ask for directions.

How chaplains work at Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Each hospital is allocated a chaplain who will see everybody who would like a visit.

If you wish for religious ministrations, please discuss these with your chaplain. Chaplains do not offer religious rituals, unless specifically requested by you.

It may be comforting to know that you can plan for the future, so that your spiritual and religious wishes are known and respected, should you become so unwell that you are no longer able to express these yourself. Because all staff want to continue to treat you with the same dignity and respect, it is helpful for all of us to know, if you have specific personal, religious or cultural beliefs.

Emergencies

Please be aware that the chaplains are not able to respond to any emergencies or out-of-hours requests.

Healthcare Chaplains

Chaplains are often ordained faith-leaders who work in a hospital to provide emotional support to patients and their visitors. As NHS employees we adhere to all of the NHS' protocols and follow the UK Board of Health Care Chaplains' Code of Conduct. We are bound by the same rules of confidentiality as other NHS staff and work as part of the hospital's multi-disciplinary teams to ensure everybody receives holistic care.

Peace be with you

We are glad that you have found this leaflet.

In it we would like to tell you a little about the Chaplaincy Team at Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the kind of support we are able to offer to you, your family and friends.

How to contact a chaplain

Please ask a member of staff or get in touch with us directly on telephone 01749 83 65 25 or email chaplains@sompar.nhs.uk

This leaflet is available in other formats, including easy read summary versions and other languages upon request. If this would be helpful to you, please speak to a member of staff.

Date Issued: December 2017
Review Date: December 2019
Impact Assessed: December 2017

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Version: 1

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