

Spiritual Care Patient Visitors Ministry

Description

Patient Visitors are usually laypersons who assist the hospital chaplain with spiritual care visits to patients. They are special people who have a desire to grow spiritually through serving the sick in the hospital. Patient Visitors come from a wide variety of religious, personal and vocational backgrounds.

Our Goal

Our goal is to give patients and families an experience of a safe, listening environment through which spiritual, emotional and physical healing can occur. We do not teach, preach, evangelize, give advice, or attempt to "fix" a patient's personal problems. Our holistic ministry is to truly to "be with" others as a caring presence.

Qualifications

Patient Visitors need to be good listeners, broad-minded people capable of "being with" patients in physical or emotional distress. They need to be assertive self-starters who can initiate visits with complete strangers in a busy hospital setting. They do not need to have any particular academic or counseling training. You must meet all O'Connor Hospital clearance requirements for an Adult Volunteer.

Time Commitment

Patient Visitors volunteer a minimum of four hours per month. They schedule their visitation times to fit their own personal schedules, including weekdays, evenings and weekends.

Training

Training is based on the action/reflection model of learning. New Patient Visitors shadow Staff Chaplains during patient visits. We then take time to reflect upon the insights, challenges and opportunities present in the visit. Out of this reflection, we bring a new awareness to our subsequent visits. As Patient Visitors gain an understanding of spiritual care in the hospital setting, the Staff Chaplain will then shadow the Patient Visitor and offer feedback and direction. Also, basic instruction in hospital chaplaincy is provided, as needed, in topics such as: Ministry and Visit Basics, Listening, The Theology/Spirituality of Suffering, End of Life Issues, Grief and Losses, Religions and Culture, Prayer, and so on. We do not teach ministry techniques but help one another discover our hidden talents, inner wisdom and compassion. In addition, we offer a variety of on-going support and training opportunities.

Specific Questions:

Please contact: Fr. Robert McKay at (408)947-2500 ext. 2046 or email at frrobertmckay@verity.org

Applicant Prerequisites

- Meet minimum age requirement of 18 years old
- Have availability to commit to a weekly schedule shift of no less than 4 hours per month
- Have a valid Social Security number
- Authorize O'Connor Hospital to complete a Criminal Background check
- Meet all O'Connor Hospital Volunteer Health Clearance requirements

Onboarding Process:

1. Submit online application
2. Volunteer Services will review applications and select prospective applicants to interview based on applicant availability, program interest, and program/position availability.
3. Prospective applicants will be scheduled to interview by phone or in-person. Prior to interview, applicants will be asked to submit a copy of their current vaccination/immunity records for review and discussion as part of the interview process.
4. If selected to move forward as an applicant, Volunteer Services will initiate the criminal background check. Any applicant that fails the background check will be dropped.
5. Applicants must complete all outstanding health clearance requirements, set up a ReadySet account and complete all required surveys.
6. When both ReadySet and Health Clearance documentation is completed, Volunteer Service will submit the Health Document packet with all immunization records to Employee Health for review and clearance.
7. Employee Health will either clear or request more information.
8. Once Volunteer Services receives clearance from Employee Health, the applicant will be contacted to confirm their assignment and schedule orientation and training. Applicants will receive their badges at orientation.

Health Clearance Requirements

The following immunizations and or titer reports are needed for Health Clearance at O'Connor Hospital. All records and documents must include the patients name and date of birth (DOB) as well as, physician or health care provider's information. All titer results must be quantitative. All vaccinations or titers with the exception of TB Screening for adults are the financial responsibility of the Applicant. See below for specific information needed.

- **TB Screening:** Requires documentation of testing using one of the following methods
 - QuantiFERON – provide laboratory confirmed test results
 - Two-step TB skin test (TST) – requires documentation results of two (2) testings with quantitative (mm. induration) results.
 - **IMPORTANT UNDERSTANDING:** If using the TST method, ***two separate tests are required*** to form a baseline per Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The minimum time between the 1st and 2nd TST tests is 10 days or separation from the date the 1st TST was read. The maximum time O'Connor Hospital allows between the two tests is 6 months.

- **MMR:** Requires medical documentation of two (2) doses of vaccine or titer results showing immunity
 - **Rubella:** lab confirmed titer showing positive immunity or vaccination record showing 1 dose of vaccine
 - **Rubeola:** lab confirmed titer showing positive immunity or vaccination record showing 2 doses of vaccine
 - **Mumps:** lab confirmed titer showing positive immunity or vaccination record showing 2 doses of vaccine
- **Varicella (Chicken Pox):** Requires medical documentation of two (2) doses of vaccine or titer results showing immunity
- **Tdap:** Requires medical documentation of vaccine
- **Influenza:** Requires medical documentation showing current years vaccine was received. (Applicant can decline vaccine but will be required to wear a mask while volunteering during the flu season (October – April))
- **Hepatitis B:** Requires medical documentation of three (3) doses of vaccine.
 - If Applicant is currently in the process of completing the 3 dose HepB series and has completed 2 of the 3 required doses, we will allow conditional clearance for starting as a volunteer. Failure to complete the scheduled 3rd dose will result in suspension