



Code of Conduct for Faith Community Leaders Visiting Western Isles Hospital, Uist & Barra Hospital St Brendan's Hospital

Issued by The Department of Spiritual Care & Diversity	Approved by the Spiritual Care Committee & the Management Team NHS Western Isles	Reviewed on December 2012 by the Spiritual Care Committee, NHS Western Isles
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Glossary of Terms

Visit By Faith Community Leaders: - This term means where a Faith Community Leader is informed that a member of His/Her Faith community has given permission either through the admission system or by a later request to either Staff or Chaplain for their presence within the hospital as a patient, to be transmitted to their relevant Faith Representative.

Faith Community Leader: - This is a legally accepted term, which covers Ministers of religion, Priests, Elders, Deacons and any other person nominated by a Faith Community to carry out such visits and ministrations to the sick.

Faith Community: - The Health Board defines a Faith Community as any grouping of persons who follow a lawful and registered religious practise. It should be understood that this term can equally be applied to a denomination of a particular faith or the more local grouping of such denominations i.e. Churches, Mosques etc. The usage of the term by the Health Board does not accept Sects and Cults who are not normally recognised as registered religions.

Formal Act of Worship: - For the purposes of this Code of Conduct this is defined as an act which involves a Group of patients in a liturgical formal act of worship i.e. Worship services, Communion services, Pre-funeral, Baptisms etc.

CODE FOR VISITING FAITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

Introduction

This Code of Conduct is not produced to restrict legitimate Spiritual Care by Faith Leaders but to help make such Spiritual care meaningful to patients while also safeguarding the rights of others. The hospital continues to welcome visits by Faith Leaders to the hospital and will make every effort to facilitate such visits.

- **Faith Community Leaders are encouraged to visit members of their faith community who have asked for a visit from them but must always remember that some patients may not want such visits and their wishes must be respected.**
- **Faith Leaders should always respect the rights of the staff concerned with the patients' treatment to refuse access or to restrict the access to the patient on patient welfare grounds.**
- **It is good practice for Faith Community leaders visiting a ward to check with the nursing staff at the Nursing Station whether it is an appropriate time to visit the patient/s and their location on in the Ward**
- **Faith Community leaders visiting a patient in the hospital should be aware that other patients in the ward they are visiting, may be of other faiths or of no faith at all, and have a right not to receive Spiritual care from a Faith Leader other than their own and this right must be respected.**
- **A Faith Leader visiting a patient and engaging in verbal Prayer, dispensing of Sacraments, Bible reading etc should be sensitive to issues of patient dignity, privacy and the possible impact of their behaviour on others. It is appropriate to consider measures such as the use of a quiet area, or drawing the curtains around the bed. If the faith leader feels that the latter puts him/her in a vulnerable position a gap can be left to allow the possibility of observation. If**

a Faith Leader wishes to conduct a formal act of worship within the Hospital they should first clear it with the Duty Chaplain (who can be contacted through the Hospital Reception) before they commence to do so. The Duty Chaplain will then be responsible for deciding where it is appropriate for such acts of worship to take place.

- Faith Leaders who are contacted by the hospital to visit patients and wish to dispense the sacraments should use only the elements supplied by the Spiritual & Religious Care Department for such sacraments. It should be noted that this is so as to limit the risk of infection within the hospital.**
- Faith Leaders visiting Patients in the Hospital should before and after visiting each patient spray their hands with the ‘alcoholic gel’ from the bottles that are supplied at the end of most beds in the hospital. If you are unsure how to use this product please ask a member of staff and they will demonstrate the correct usage.**
- There are facilities such as the Religious & Quiet Room in the hospital that are available to Faith Leaders to use but we would ask that if at all possible the use of these facilities are arranged through the Duty Chaplain so as to avoid a clash of usage.**