

# Here for you...

Support for people who are not religious



Introducing the role of our non-religious pastoral carer



University Hospitals of Leicester **NHS**  
NHS Trust

*Caring at its best*

## Supporting patients, carers, families and staff who are not religious

Coming in to hospital can often be a stressful experience. It can raise many questions, anxieties and fears. Having someone who can listen in confidence to your emotional needs and who is part of the wider hospital team but not involved in your treatment or physical care can be very beneficial.

University Hospitals of Leicester is the first NHS Trust in the UK to employ a non-religious member of the team to offer support and choice to patients, carers, families and staff. Our non-religious pastoral carer is part of our wider chaplaincy team. In short, the role exists to provide holistic, spiritual support for those who are not religious.

It is helpful to think of spiritual care in terms of caring for the human spirit in anyone. The human spirit is to do with a person's individuality, their need for meaning, peace or hope which can be expressed in many ways.

Whether you are a humanist, atheist, agnostic, secular or simply do not identify with any religious belief, you may value the support offered through this unique role.

**If you would like to request a visit from the non-religious pastoral carer or make a referral you can:**

***Phone us:***

Glenfield Hospital:	0116 258 3413
Leicester General Hospital (LGH)	0116 258 4243
Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI)	0116 258 5487

***Email us:*** [chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

Please let us know which member of the team you would like to visit you.

*Phone messages and emails are checked weekdays and Sunday mornings.*

## What have people said about this service?

*“My dad was in hospital for the last two months of his life. He told us about his visits from the non-religious pastoral carer. We could see how much it helped him feel calm, which helped us stay calm too. I’m so happy she was there for him.”*

*“Our baby girl only lived for a few hours. We were so sad and in shock. We’re humanists. We didn’t want a religious ritual but felt we had to do something to mark the fact that this little being had been part of our lives. The nurse said the hospital had a non-religious pastoral carer we could talk to. We had a naming and non-religious blessing for our baby. The pastoral carer read some really comforting words and gave us a lovely copy of those words to take home with us.”*

*“I’m a nurse. We all have to deal with all sorts of tragedies. We’re usually able to just get on with things. But this time, for some reason, I just reached overload. Anyway, this one day I really didn’t know how I was going to get through the day when I bumped into the pastoral carer on the ward. We went to the retreat room in the chaplaincy and I was able to let go of feelings I’d been bottling up. It really helped me put everything into perspective”.*

*“My wife and I had a difficult decision to make after our son was badly injured in a car crash. A nurse asked me if a chaplain could help. We’re atheists so I asked if there was anyone who wasn’t religious we could talk to. We wanted someone with a world view similar to ours. Talking to the pastoral carer helped us clarify our thoughts. I can’t imagine what it would have been like without her being there for us.”*

*“I have been in and out of Leicester Hospitals with a life threatening condition. There have been several times when I really wanted someone to discuss things with. It is a real delight to know that there is a choice of support available for people who are not religious now.”*

## The Non-Religious Pastoral Carer

A new resource for patients, carers, families and staff  
at Leicester's Hospitals



Funded by



If you would like this information in another language or  
format, please contact the service equality manager on  
0116 250 2959

إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على هذه المعلومات في شكل أولفة أخرى ، يرجى الاتصال  
مع مدير الخدمة للمساواة في 0116 250 2959.

আপনি যদি এই বিক্ষিপ্তের অনুবাদ - লিখিত বা অডিও টেপ'এ চান, তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে সার্ভিস  
ইকুয়ালিটি ম্যানেজার ডেভ বেকার'এর সাথে 0116 250 2959 নাম্বারে যোগাযোগ করুন।

如果您想用另一种语言或格式来显示本资讯，请致电 0116 250 2959  
联系“服务平等化经理” (Service Equality Manager)。

જો તમને આ પત્રકનાં લેખિત અથવા ટેપ ઉપર ભાષાંતર જોઈતું હોય તો  
મહેરબાની કરી સર્વિસ ઈકુવાલિટી મેનેજરનો 0116 250 2959 ઉપર સંપર્ક કરો.

यदि आप को इस लीफलेट का लिखती या टेप पर अनुवाद चाहिए तो कृपया  
डेव बेकर, सर्विस इक्वालिटी मैनेजर से 0116 250 2959 पर सम्पर्क कीजिए।

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać niniejsze informacje w tłumaczeniu na inny język  
lub w innym formacie, prosimy skontaktować się z Menedżerem ds. równości w  
dostępnie do usług (Service Equality Manager) pod numerem telefonu 0116 250 2959.

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਲੀਫਲੈਟ ਦਾ ਲਿਖਤੀ ਜਾਂ ਟੇਪ ਕੀਤਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਡੇਵ ਬੇਕਰ, ਸਰਵਿਸ  
ਇਕੁਆਲਿਟੀ ਮੈਨੇਜਰ ਨਾਲ 0116 250 2959 'ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Ak by ste chceli dostať túto informáciu v inom jazyku, alebo formáte, kontaktujte  
prosim manažéra rovnosti služieb na tel. číslo 0116 250 2959.

Haddaad rabto warqadan oo turjuman oo ku duuban cajalad ama qoraal ah  
fadlan la xiriir, Maamulaha Adeegga Sinaanta 0116 250 2959.