

VOLUNTEER ROLE DESCRIPTION

VOLUNTEER TITLE: Podiatry Volunteer

VOLUNTEER LINK: Joanne Nichol

Aims:

- To enhance the well-being and dignity of patients through professional podiatry services.
- To provide a sense of normalcy and comfort during a challenging time in patients' lives.
- To offer compassionate, personalised care that aligns with the hospice's holistic care philosophy.

When / Where:

Adult Inpatient Unit (AIPU), with the potential to extend to other areas as needed. The service will be offered weekly, with flexibility to accommodate patient needs and volunteer availability.

Emergency or special request services may be provided based on volunteer's availability and patient condition.

Main Tasks:

- Toenail cuts: Basic cutting and filing according to patients' needs and in line with risk assessments
- Foot and Lower Limb Care: Gentle foot washing, removal of dry skin, and foot massages, using hospice-approved, hypoallergenic products.
- Recognising infection: inform nursing team of any infections patients may have
- Footcare education for patients and staff, and communication of treatment plans

Service Exclusions

- Surgical procedures
- Use of products not approved for use with palliative patients – e.g. Nail varnish

Skills and Experience:

- Qualified podiatrist
- Have a minimum of 3 years of professional experience

Personal Qualities:

- Compassionate, patient, and understanding of the needs of hospice patients.
- Comfortable working with patients with life limiting illnesses and with those who are wheelchair users, immobile, or bedbound.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision
- Able to travel to St Oswald's Hospice (travel expenses can be reimbursed in line with our Staff and Volunteer Expenses Policy)

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- Identifies with St Oswald's Hospice Values and People Charter
<https://www.stoswaldsuk.org/who-we-are/our-values-and-people-charter/>

Benefits:

- Volunteering at St Oswald's Hospice gives you the opportunity to make a difference to people at a difficult time in their lives and to support your local community.
- A chance to develop new skills, experiences and knowledge.
- A chance to meet new people and be part of a friendly team.
- Reimbursement of your travel expenses.
- The support of a Volunteer Link who is an experienced member of the team.
- Support and Supervision: Podiatry volunteers report to the Nurse in charge who will support to understand the unique needs of the individual patients and overcome any mobility challenges to enable the patient to receive foot care. Podiatry volunteers will also communicate with medical and nursing teams. The Clinical Volunteer Co-ordinator will help with induction.

Essential Processes/ Training (Internal Info):

- Recruitment Pathway *[On-site]*
- Minimum age *[21+ must have completed podiatrist training and 3 years professional experience]*
- DBS check required *[Enhanced Children and Adults]*
- Health & Safety Training Online *[Clinical]*

Volunteer Podiatrist to:

- Provide a copy of Public Liability insurance provided – This must be provided annually as renewed.
- Use own podiatry equipment.

Training:

- Induction and welcome
- Mandatory e-learning
- Orientation on hospice care principles, including sensitivity to patient comfort and emotional needs.
- Communication skills, particularly in relation to working with terminally ill patients.