

Supporting Religious Beliefs in Hospital

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Executive Summary

This patient story focuses on a positive patient experience of how religious needs were supported by the medical and nursing team on ward 31 at Glenfield Hospital. The patient shares with Trust Board how his wish as a Jehovah's Witness not to receive blood was supported whilst he underwent an aortic valve replacement.

Patient Experience

This patient story will be shared via a video. The main points raised are:

- The patient expressed his wish not to receive a blood transfusion and this was supported by the medical team whilst undergoing surgery for an aortic valve replacement
- Staff on ward 31 at Glenfield Hospital were kind and caring throughout his stay in hospital

The main element of care that the patient wished to highlight was his overall experience and praise for staff in showing an understanding of his faith wishes as a Jehovah's Witness.

Supporting Faith

This story is an example of how important it can be to a patient that their religion or belief is not only respected, but also that, where appropriate, their care is tailored to suit their religious requirements. As a Jehovah's Witness, it was vitally important to the patient to fulfil this faith requirement of abstaining from receiving blood or blood products. The Trust policy "Declining Blood and Blood Products UHL Policy" (B39/2010) clearly sets out how this should be handled. Staff understood and supported his wishes and as a result his surgery proceeded successfully.

Caring at its Best

This is a particular example of person centred care. Some other examples where religious requirements are met by the Trust are:

- **Religious diet**, for example Halal food for Muslim patients, pure vegetarian food for Hindu, Jain and Sikh patients and kosher food for Jewish patients
- **Urgent certification and release for deceased patients for burial**, for example Muslim and Jewish patients (Policy B12/2013)
- **Provision of diverse chaplaincy support** with a paid Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and non-religious team and additional support from Baha'i, Buddhist, Jain and Jewish volunteers.

Conclusion

This patient story identifies how the Trust supported a patient's religious needs and that he felt that staff understood how important carrying out this faith requirement was to him. It also illustrates how failure to take religious needs into account may adversely affect access to treatment. If patients thought that their religious and or cultural requirements would not be respected and, where possible, accommodated, they may not access the treatment they need. Thus this avoids indirect discrimination on religion or belief and celebrates diversity.

The Trust Board is asked to:

- Receive and listen to the patient's story.
- Affirm afresh the importance of taking religious and cultural needs into account

For Reference

Edit as appropriate:

1. The following **objectives** were considered when preparing this report:

Safe, high quality, <u>patient centred</u> healthcare	Yes
Effective, integrated emergency care	Not applicable
Consistently meeting national access standards	Not applicable
Integrated care in partnership with others	Yes
Enhanced delivery in research, innovation & ed'	Not applicable
A caring, professional, engaged workforce	Yes
Clinically sustainable services with excellent facilities	Not applicable
Financially sustainable NHS organisation	Not applicable
Enabled by excellent IM&T	Not applicable

2. This matter relates to the following **governance** initiatives:

a. Organisational Risk Register	Not applicable
b. Board Assurance Framework	Not applicable

3. Related **Patient and Public Involvement** actions taken, or to be taken: Patient Story consists of feedback from a patient directly about their experience of care

4. Results of any **Equality Impact Assessment**, relating to this matter: **Equality issues were met in this episode**

5. Scheduled date for the next paper on this topic:	October 2016
6. Executive Summaries should not exceed 1 page .	The paper does comply
7. Papers should not exceed 7 pages.	The paper does comply