

Policy Applies to: All staff at Mercy Hospital

Rationale:

Mercy Hospital is committed to providing holistic care. This concept embraces not only the physical needs but also the spiritual, emotional and social needs of the patient, whanau/family and staff.

The individual will not necessarily be aligned to a particular faith tradition but when they are, attention will be given to providing the full richness their faith brings to their current experience.

Definitions:

Pastoral Team: The Pastoral team is responsible for providing a spiritual ministry, where needed and desired; it is designed to be supportive to patients, their families and staff.

Chaplain: The on-call catholic chaplain who is available to provide sacramental care

Hospital Visitors: Representatives appointed from recognized faith communities to visit members of their community that are in hospital.

Objectives:

- To support patients and whanau/families emotionally and spiritually during the stress of surgery and hospitalization
- To augment the ministry of the patient's Priest or Cleric
- To offer spiritual and emotional support to staff
- To ensure a sound liturgical and prayer base within the hospital

Implementation:

- The Pastoral Team will respond to specific patient, family or staff requests for support by:
 - being available to visit patients
 - offering particular care and support to seriously ill or dying patients and their family
- The on-call Catholic Chaplain, appointed by the Bishop of Dunedin, is supported to provide regular Eucharistic celebrations and pastoral care to patients, their family or staff as required
- Hospital Visitors provide inter-denominational support and this will be facilitated by the Pastoral Team as required.

Evaluation:

- **An annual evaluation of pastoral care will include a review of any feedback received.**

Associated Documents

- **External** Pastoral Services in Catholic Health, Community and Aged Care provided by Catholic Health Australia
- **Internal** *Tikaka* - Best Practice Guidelines, Mercy Hospital Dunedin Death of a Patient Policy