

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, whānau/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 whānau/families and staff.

Chaplain: The on-call Catholic chaplain 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 whānau/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.

Cultural Considerations:

The support offered by the Pastoral Care team, local clergy and/or hospital visitors serve to care for the Taha Wairua – spiritual wellbeing of whānau, patients and staff at Mercy Hospital. In Te Whare Tapawhā, a Maori Health care model developed by Tā/Sir Mason Durie, a leading Aotearoa psychiatrist, all the key parts of our Hauora/wellbeing are shown as the walls and foundations of a wharenuī/house. Hauora/Health and wellbeing relies on all five of these parts being well.

Implementation:

- The Pastoral Team will respond to specific patient, whānau/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 whānau, family or staff as required. Inter-denominational support can be provided and this is facilitated by the Pastoral Team as required.

Evaluation:

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

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.