



Job Description: Hospice Doctor

Accountable to: Lead Doctor

Line Manager: Director of Clinical Services

Job Summary

To provide medical care for the children and young people visiting Naomi House & jacksplace and support their families.

Key Responsibilities

- To visit the hospice for a 2-3 hour session and then be available for the rest of the day and overnight on call.
- The doctor will be expected to provide cover one weekday a week and one in six weekends (i.e. weekends start at 8pm Friday night till 8am Monday morning including hospice visits on Saturday and Sunday). Holiday and annual leave are covered between medical colleagues on the rota.
- To provide medical care for the child or young person visiting Naomi House (including the long term ventilation unit if there are inpatients) & jacksplace, including prescribing patient medications and if needed, clinical assessment on admission. Support is available from the Lead Doctor; and for specific adult issues, from the Palliative Medicine Associate Specialist (who is available twice a week).
- To provide psycho-social support to the family as required, this will predominantly involve discussions relating to the medical care.
- To liaise with the Site Coordinator or Care Manager as appropriate on each visit.
- To inform colleagues and the Lead Doctor and senior care team of on-going problems and situations via the appropriate handover process (email or telephone call).
- To participate in regular clinical meetings organised by the Lead Doctor, to ensure adequate medical support and development of all medical staff involved with the care of children at Naomi House & jacksplace. This meeting is currently held in the evening, quarterly four times a year on the second Monday of the relevant month.
- To take part in appropriate audit and research as required.
- To complete documentation as required ensuring Care Team is fully aware and briefed on medical care plans.
- To adhere to the GMC Code of Conduct and undertake appraisal with respect to his/her practice at the hospice. The doctor can then use the hospice appraisal outcomes to inform their 'whole practice' appraisal at their main employing Trust and Responsible Officer.

Overall clinical responsibility for patient care lies with the Director of Care and the Lead Doctor, working within the remit of a Clinical Committee.

Person Specification

Qualifications MRCPCH or MRCGP or equivalent.

Personal Current acute clinical practice in paediatric or young adult medicine in secondary or primary care settings

Excellent clinical and communication skills

Some palliative care experience in secondary or primary care settings.

The doctor appointed should be comfortable working in a nurse-led, multi-disciplinary setting, assuming overall medical responsibility for the children for the duration of their shift.

Essential characteristics should include empathy with children and families, flexibility, ability to respect the experience and skills of other members of the team. It is essential that he/she should be a good listener and communicator.

We currently have a team of four doctors each providing medical cover for one weekday per week plus one other doctor participating in the weekend rota. We are looking to add a fifth doctor to provide weekday and weekend cover.

Weekend on call usually means working one weekend in six. As far as possible the rotas are drawn up three months in advance to fit around the teams' other work and family commitments.

Each doctor working at Naomi House & jacksplace will take responsibility for his/her own indemnity.

Each doctor will be paid a fixed rate of pay for each shift worked. A monthly timesheet for the previous month is produced by the organisation, checked by the doctors and submitted for payment.