

OREGON STATE HOSPITAL

PORTLAND – SALEM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION 7: Patient Rights

POLICY: 7.011

SUBJECT: Religious Beliefs and Practices

POINT

PERSON: ROY TRIBE

APPROVED: GREG ROBERT 
SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: October 28, 2011

I. POLICY:

Oregon State Hospital (OSH) acknowledges the inherent and constitutionally protected rights retained by patients to believe, express, and exercise the religion of their individual choice. An individual's spirituality is an important part of their recovery. The hospital, therefore, extends to individuals under its custody and/or supervision those opportunities necessary to practice religious freedom that are consistent with the requirements of facility security, safety, health, and orderliness while allowing dignity and freedom of religious choice.

Proselytizing Prohibited – Chaplains, other staff, members of the community, and patients may not proselytize or criticize the religious beliefs of others at Oregon State Hospital. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the sharing of information regarding religious belief.

Within the limitations of resources and the need for facility security, safety, health, and orderliness, OSH intends to:

- A. Offer individuals under the custody and/or supervision of OSH the opportunity to practice the religion of their choice;
- B. Provide for the orderly management of religious opportunities for patients housed in OSH facilities;
- C. Seek methods to accord all religious objects and practices due respect from OSH employees, patients, and volunteers; and
- D. Ensure that OSH practices with regard to religious programming are consistent with relevant provisions of the federal and state constitution and legislation.

II. DEFINITIONS:

- A. "Oregon State Hospital Director of Spiritual Care Department and Staff Chaplains," see definitions in the Oregon State Hospital Spiritual Care Department Organization Chart Descriptions.
- B. "Specific Religious Representative" is a member of the clergy, medicine person, Imam, Rabbi, spiritual advisor, or other religious authority who has been contracted by Spiritual Care Department to provide religious services to patients.
- C. "Religious Volunteer" shall be any member of the community who is recognized by an appropriate religious authority and who has been accepted, oriented, trained, and approved by the Spiritual Care Department and Volunteer Services at OSH for the purpose of providing goods, services, or other volunteer activity in a religious related area. The approved Religious Volunteer may visit any patient of the same religious persuasion without being on the patient's approved visitor list and may visit more than one patient at a time. The Spiritual Care Department provides management and supervision of Religious Volunteers.
- D. "Religious Visitor" is a visiting clergy or other authorized representatives of their respective faiths who have been requested to visit specific individual patients.
- E. "Proselytize" is an attempt to persuade another individual to convert from one religious belief to another religious belief.

III. PROCEDURES:

- A. Oregon State Hospital shall have a Director of the Spiritual Care Department assigned the responsibility for coordinating and supervising religious activities and community resources to meet the expressed religious needs of patients and administering relevant planning, programming, and budgeting to accomplish the following hospital responsibilities:
 - 1. Receive information identifying patient's religious preferences, as needed.
 - 2. Seek out and coordinate the activities of religious people and groups from the community to meet otherwise unmet, expressed patient needs;
 - 3. Coordinate the required screening and orientation of all religious representatives, students, volunteers, and visitors.

4. Coordinate the activities of volunteer religious groups from the community which have, or request to have, access to patients;
5. Coordinate access to appropriate facility space and equipment, religious publications (print, audio, and audio visual), religious objects/symbols, and collaborates with the dietary department, as needed;
6. Assist families of patients as requested in contacts with the religious community;
7. Foster the development of religious education and training opportunities within the hospital setting in accordance with the guidelines of this policy;
8. Provide religious referral to patients for transition to the community;
9. Assure confidentiality according to policy and state and federal regulations; and
10. Maintain a current OSH Handbook of Religious Beliefs and Practices for staff orientation and guidance.

B. Chaplaincy:

1. Hospital staff chaplains, residents and interns are expected to perform the following functions:
2. Conduct religious services;
3. Attend to the religious and spiritual needs of patients consistent with the patient's religious persuasion;
4. Interview and provide requested counseling assistance to patients in collaboration with the patient's Treatment Team concerning their spiritual, social, and family problems. The chaplain or intern shall coordinate with the treatment team as necessary;
5. Consult with hospital staff regarding hospital religious programming, diversity of religious practices, and individual patient needs;
6. Provide religious reference materials.

- C. Specific Religious Representatives and Religious Volunteers are requested to attend to the spiritual needs of patients from their specific religious persuasion by performing any or all of the following functions:
1. Conduct religious services for patients from their specific religious persuasion;
 2. Provide religious and moral instruction to patients from their specific religious persuasion;
 3. Interview and provide requested pastoral care assistance to patients;
 4. Advise facility staff chaplains about spiritual, moral, and ethnic/social concerns of patients from their specific religious persuasion; and;
 5. Work under the guidance and supervision of the facility staff chaplain.
- D. Religious visitor:
1. May visit only one patient at a time from their religious persuasion; and
 2. Must be requested by the patient.

IV. REFERENCES:

Oregon State Hospital Handbook of Religious Beliefs and Practices;
Religious Freedom Restoration Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb-2000bb-4; and
Pastoral Services Department.

Replaces OSH Policy and Procedure 7.011, *Religious Beliefs and Practices*, dated 11/21/2006.