



# Hospital Chaplaincy from a Muslim Perspective

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# What is expected of a Muslim chaplain?

- How does it differ from Christian or any other sort of chaplaincy?



# Perception of Illness and Death

- Muslims receive illness and death with patience and prayers
- Illness is considered a purification and may be an atonement for wrong actions
- Reward in the Hereafter
- Death is considered a journey to meet their Creator and a passage into eternal life



# Religious Figures in Islam

- Religious scholar, leader, guide
- *Imam, Mawlana, Molvi, Mufti, Mullah, Shaykh, 'Alim*
- *Hafiz* (title used for one who has memorised the complete Qur'an)
- Muslim chaplain



# When faced with Illness

- Serious time of deep reflection of the self and meaning of life

## ***Qur'an, 32:9***

***'Then He fashioned him and breathed into him of His spirit; and appointed for you hearing, and sight and hearts...'***

*...Fitra* (innate nature)

- Connecting with the self is more important now than ever



# Treatment

- Refusal to take medication

***“It is God’s will!”***

- Treatment is also God’s will...

## ***Hadith***

***“Your body has a right over you, and so seek treatment, servants of God, for every illness God created, He created a treatment for it.”***





# Visiting patients

- Approach
- Muslim patients
- Patients of other faiths or no faith
- Referrals to other chaplains



# Visitors

- A religious duty
- Visiting and assisting the indisposed is a basic form of worship to bring one closer to God
- Many visitors, other than family and friends may come to see the patient





# Culture & Religious Belief

- Diversity
- Many traditions are in line with Islamic teachings and these may vary between groups of people
- Different schools of thought
- Very diverse, both in culture and in religious belief



# Working with staff

- Support i.e. one-to-one, groups
- Training e.g. nurses, consultants, Bereavement care services
- Inter-disciplinary work



# Male and female Muslim chaplains

- Cultural necessity
- On-call availability – a challenge
- Working part-time in many hospitals



# Muslim chaplaincy resources

- Prayer space – shared or separate?
- Wudu' / Ablution facilities
- Copies of Qur'an and prayer books
- Prayer mats
- Pebbles for 'dry ablution'
- Prayer timetable





Wudu ‘ / ablution facilities





Muslim prayer room





# Diet

- *halal* (lawful)
- *haram* (unlawful)
- Not just pertaining to food



# Forbidden (*haram*)

- Pork and pig products
- Flesh-eating animals
- Birds of prey
- Carrion
- Blood
- Alcohol and intoxicants
- Food ingredients, e.g. lard, animal fat, gelatine derived from non-halal sources



# Lawful (*halal*)

- All other food is lawful

***“ All things are allowed except that which is specifically forbidden.”***

- If in doubt Muslims would prefer to eat fish, eggs, or dairy products instead of meat
- Any products suitable for vegetarians (and not containing alcohol) will be *halal*
- Family will often bring food if there are no restrictions



# Personal Hygiene

- Keeping Clean
- Cleanliness is considered half of faith!
- Body waste such as urine, stools and menses can make the Muslim body impure preventing them from practicing their religious rituals



# Personal Hygiene

- The patient should not be left in clothes soiled by body waste
- Any clean clothes should conform to the code of dress especially while praying
- For patients who are incontinent pads should be provided and regularly changed especially before prayer times



# Modesty & Etiquettes

## To allay anxiety...

- Separate ward/bay for female & male patients
- Examinations – only exposing the part to be examined at any one time while keeping the rest of the patient covered
- Preferably by staff of the same sex or if not possible in the presence of a chaperone
- Avoiding affectionate physical contact with members of opposite sex!





# Muslim chaplaincy volunteers

- Recruitment
- Training
- Supervision
- Retention



Chaplaincy volunteers at Eid Celebration





‘Other volunteers’ to eat the food!



# Working together in a team

- Respecting differences
- Organising events
- Staff training
- Social events





Team away day





Prayers for peace in the world





Sharing and learning about one's own faith



# Topics for discussion from different religious perspectives

- Fasting
- Meaning of 'Church'
- Illness and suffering
- The will of God





Muslims in hospitals exhibition





Holding conferences





IAW (Islam Awareness Week) Exhibition



## TITLES OF IAW PRESENTATIONS MADE IN HOSPITAL

*Fasting and its implications for Muslim patients and staff*

Abdul Sitar Itrakji

*Islam's contribution to medicine*

Sohaib Mir

*The Muslim healthcare environment*

Faizal Khan

*Transplantation and Muslims*

Majid Mukadan

*Cleanliness is next to Godliness*

Allah Ditta

*Worship provisions for the Muslim patient*

Aiman Alzetani

*Birth rites in Islam*

Samia Khan





Coffee morning involving various communities



# Social team events

- Religious festivals
- Annual team meal out
- Barbecues
- Garden parties
- Anniversaries





Sharing in each other's festivities!