

Complementary therapist volunteer



Location:	Across our nursing area in Buckinghamshire and south west Herts in clients' homes and at our Living Well centre at Grove House, St Albans and our In Patient Unit in Watford
Time commitment:	Flexible depending on your availability, but we would hope that you could offer a minimum of 2 treatments a week. We also hope that you will be able to commit to a minimum of 6 months volunteering.

Rennie Grove Peace Hospice Care (RGP) vision

We will support people of all ages who are affected by a progressive life-limiting illness, and those who care for them, to live as well as possible by providing choice and ease of access to a wide range of palliative care and bereavement services across west Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Purpose of this role

Complementary therapists work with our patients and their carers or family members to offer a range of treatments that help to contribute to their relaxation and well-being. Treatments will be offered in clients' homes, virtually or at our Living Well centre in St Albans or Inpatient Unit in Watford. Without volunteers, we would not be able to offer this service to all those that would benefit from it.

Main tasks

- providing your chosen therapy or therapies to patients, carers, and family members in a holistic way, with an understanding of their diagnosis, treatment, care and current condition
- providing feedback to our complementary therapist co-ordinator after treatments
- attending regular mandatory group or individual supervision
- following all Rennie Grove Hospice Peace Care policies and procedures at all times, particularly around infection control and client confidentiality
- working alongside our nurses and clinicians to provide a holistic approach for our patients

What are we looking for?

- someone who is competent in at least one of the following therapies: ITEC (or equivalent) massage, aromatherapy, Indian head massage or reflexology; acupuncture; craniosacral therapy; scar therapy; reiki; relaxation or meditation
- a minimum of one year's clinical experience after qualification is preferred
- a qualification that is validated by the appropriate professional body
- someone who has an understanding of contraindications or precautions in relation to the therapy you practice, and is able to adapt your treatment accordingly
- evidence of continual professional development
- someone with a calm and empathetic manner with excellent listening and communication skills
- the ability to be flexible, but able to commit to regular sessions
- basic IT skills to be able to keep concise, accurate records
- Age 18+

Training and support

- there will be a named line manager who will provide ongoing support
- there will be some mandatory training that you will need to complete at the start of your volunteering with us and then periodically afterwards as refresher training which will include data security and confidentiality
- all our Supportive Care Service volunteers attend a one-day introductory training course run by the team, and additional training will be provided on a 1:1 basis with the complementary therapies team

What you need to know

- you will complete a volunteer application form and we will ask for one reference from someone who knows you well. If the role you are applying for is as a counsellor or Complementary Therapist we require the reference to be from someone who knows you in a professional context
- you will need to complete an Enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check for the adult workforce for this role.
- as a charity supporting people who are vulnerable, we encourage all volunteers with patient and client contact to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19
- patient facing volunteers will have access to supervision support from line managers
- client support and your own supervision may be given virtually. You will be expected to follow our Virtual Visit and Virtual Groups policy and your line manager will go through this with you

- we welcome everyone and will make reasonable adjustments should they be needed
- we will pay reasonable expenses incurred, should you wish to claim them
- we rely on the commitment of our volunteers to support our services, however we understand that you may need to take a break from your volunteering. If you are not able to volunteer for a period of time, we will check in with you after 3 months. Depending on your circumstances, we would then check in with you again after 6 months. At that point, if you are still not ready to return, we will make you inactive as a volunteer, so that we are not keeping data unnecessarily and we know where we are in terms of resourcing the service. Of course, we'd be very happy to discuss returning to the role at any time – your line manager will meet with you to discuss it, and if you do return, we will ask you to attend some refresher training.

To protect both patients and volunteers, you MUST NOT:

- give clinical advice or medication
- counsel clients
- give out personal contact details
- witness any legal documentation for the patient or their carer

For more information please contact the volunteering team on 01923 330330 or 01727 731020, volunteers@renniegrovepeace.org