

Complementary Therapy Volunteering

The Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre (LJMC) at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre provides information, support, counselling and complementary therapies for people affected by cancer from:

- Bedfordshire
- Buckinghamshire
- Hertfordshire
- Middlesex
- North-West London

As part of our complementary therapy service we currently offer aromatherapy, Indian head massage, reflexology, reiki (as a pilot study within the drop-in centre and on the wards), and relaxation classes.

Since we opened in 1993, we have established a team of volunteer complementary therapists who work on the wards and within the chemotherapy unit.

Many patients being treated at Mount Vernon Hospital have benefited from the complementary therapies provided within the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre and on the wards. We are keen to build an even stronger team of volunteer therapists so that we can cover the wards and the chemotherapy unit constantly throughout the week for this much needed and appreciated service.

Training is mandatory for those wishing to volunteer and the training consists of two one-day workshops: **Cancer and its Treatments** followed by **Using Complementary Therapies with Cancer Patients**. Training takes place twice a year, usually in March and October. We also organise therapists' meetings for support, information exchange and guest speakers.

Once trained, therapists who would like to volunteer to work on the wards will be required to apply for an application form and attend for interview. We will require two references, and the hospital will require a CRB check (irrespective of whether you have had one elsewhere) and a health check with Occupational Health. If accepted as a volunteer there is a thorough induction process with our experienced senior therapists fully to acquaint new volunteers with ward procedures and adaptation of therapies.

The criteria for therapists wishing to volunteer are outlined overleaf. We are sure you will understand these criteria must be fulfilled by our volunteer therapists so that we can ensure high professional standards for patients associated with the Cancer Centre.

For further information and to apply for the training please contact either Jill or Pam. We will be pleased to hear from you.

Complementary Therapy Co-ordinators: Jill Preston / Pam Thorpe

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email: jill.preston1@nhs.net / pam.thorpe@nhs.net

Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre

Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 2RN

... supporting people affected by cancer...

Criteria for Volunteer Complementary Therapists

Volunteers must fulfil the following criteria:

1. Have complementary therapy qualifications that are recognised by their relevant governing body.
2. Be registered with the relevant professional body for their therapy and abide by its rules, regulations and code of conduct.
3. Have up-to-date professional indemnity insurance, which they undertake a professional responsibility to maintain.
4. Must have worked professionally and regularly with patients for two years post qualification
5. Have an interest in cancer care, and sensitivity regarding the issues for cancer patients and their carers.
6. Must be willing to undertake training with the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre on cancer treatment, side-effects and psychological effects on people affected by cancer.
7. Keep up-to-date with their own professional development.