

Ref. No: 2623
Date: 15/06/26
Subject: Autism Support Roles in Acute Hospital Settings

REQUEST

Please provide the following information in relation to your acute hospital services:

Does your Trust employ any Autism Specialist Nurses, Autism Liaison Nurses, Learning Disability and Autism Liaison Nurses, Autism Practitioners, or equivalent roles that support autistic patients within acute hospital settings?

For each role identified, please provide:

Job title

Whole-time equivalent (WTE) staffing level

Whether the role is autism-specific or combined with learning disability services

The departments/services covered (e.g. Emergency Department, inpatient wards, outpatient departments, maternity services, pre-operative assessment, etc.)

If your Trust does not employ a dedicated autism-specific role, please describe what support is available to autistic patients during admission, treatment, and discharge.

Please provide any service specifications, role descriptions, policies, pathways, or guidance documents relating to support for autistic patients in acute hospital settings.

Does your Trust operate an Autism Champion programme or equivalent initiative? If yes, please provide details.

RESPONSE

Please provide the following information in relation to your acute hospital services:

Does your Trust employ any Autism Specialist Nurses, Autism Liaison Nurses, Learning Disability and Autism Liaison Nurses, Autism Practitioners, or equivalent roles that support autistic patients within acute hospital settings?

Yes

For each role identified, please provide:

Job title Learning: **Disability and Autism Practitioner**

Whole-time equivalent (WTE) staffing level: **3WTE**

Whether the role is autism-specific or combined with learning disability services

The role is combined as per the Job Title

The departments/services covered (e.g. Emergency Department, inpatient wards, outpatient departments, maternity services, pre-operative assessment, etc.)

The Specialist Practitioners cover all areas of the Trust including Acute and Community Services

If your Trust does not employ a dedicated autism-specific role, please describe what support is available to autistic patients during admission, treatment, and discharge. **N/A**

Please provide any service specifications, role descriptions, policies, pathways, or guidance documents relating to support for autistic patients in acute hospital settings.

Please see attached Job Description and Policy which is used to support patients who have a diagnosis of a Learning Disability / Autism, ensuring reasonable adjustments are made and to support staff to care for them appropriately. Mandatory Training is also provided to all staff within the trust.

Please see attached

Does your Trust operate an Autism Champion programme or equivalent initiative? If yes, please provide details.

Yes, champions have been identified who are points of contact on each ward / department. The Specialist Practitioners share resources with them to be made available to front line staff (such as blank health passports, pain tools and communication aids)