

St Columba's Hospice Care

Duty of Candour Annual Report

April 2022/March 2023

Every healthcare professional must be open and honest with patients when something that goes wrong with their treatment or care causes, or has the potential to cause, harm or distress.

Services must tell the patient, apologise, offer appropriate remedy or support and fully explain the effects to the patient.

As part of our care, we produce an annual report to provide a summary of the number of times we have trigger duty of Candour within our service.

Name & address of service:	St Columba's Hospice Care 15 Boswall Road Edinburgh EH5 3RW
Date of report:	14.04.23
How have you made sure that you (and your staff) understand your responsibilities relating to the duty of candour and have systems in place to respond effectively?	<p>In December 2017, a report was prepared for the Board of Governors and Management Committee at the hospice to provide information regarding the upcoming legislation being implemented on 1st April 2018. Within this report we considered our systems and readiness for the new legislation.</p> <p>In September 2018, a further report was provided confirming the identification of the 'responsible person' for duty of candour, that policies had been updated and that senior clinical staff had completed required training.</p> <p>Principles of duty of candour are now routinely included in annual mandatory training sessions delivered to both clinical and non-clinical staff, and in corporate Induction which is delivered to all new staff. All new senior clinicians and clinical managers complete duty of candour e-learning on appointment which is repeated every two years.</p>
Do you have a Duty of Candour Policy or written duty of candour procedure?	Duty of Candour requirements are embedded in our operational policies, including incident reporting and management policy.
What systems do you have in place to support staff to provide an apology in a person-centred way and how do you support staff to enable them to do this?	<p>Prior to implementation of the legislation all staff received training in 'the power of apology'. The session included reflection on good / poor apologies, guidance on how to provide meaningful apologies and dispelling some of the 'myths' surrounding provision of apologies.</p> <p>Guidance on providing apologies is now included in our incident reporting policies.</p>

What support do you have available for people involved in invoking the procedure and those who might be affected?	<p>For patients and their families, we have a multidisciplinary team including counselling and family support services available. A lead clinician would be identified in the event of a Duty of Candour incident to support the individual (s) involved.</p> <p>For our staff and volunteers, we have a range of support available including policies and procedures, accessible line management, HR support, occupational health and staff counselling.</p>
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How many times have you/your service implemented the duty of candour procedure this financial year?	
Type of unexpected or unintended incidents (not relating to the natural course of someone's illness or underlying conditions)	Number of times this has happened (April 2022 - March 2023)
A person died	0
A person incurred permanent lessening of bodily, sensory, motor, physiologic or intellectual functions	0
A person's treatment increased	0
The structure of a person's body changed	0
A person's life expectancy shortened	0
A person's sensory, motor or intellectual functions was impaired for 28 days or more	0
A person experienced pain or psychological harm for 28 days or more	0
A person needed health treatment in order to prevent them dying	0
A person needing health treatment in order to prevent other injuries as listed above	0
Total	0

To date we have not required to invoke Duty of Candour procedures but we are confident that we have the appropriate systems and support in place in the event that they are required.

Dot Partington
Deputy CEO