



Volunteer Palliative Care Nurse

Preferred Minimum 2 year commitment



Role Description

Provide holistic end-of-life care to people who are suffering of a terminal illness, under the direction of the Palliative Care Nurse Team Leader. By caring for those often isolated, hopeless, and fearful, this position is a living example of God's love and compassion for the weak, lonely, and marginalized members of society. This position works primarily off-ship; hot and dusty or wet (depending on season) conditions can be expected. Visiting people in their house requires cultural sensitivity.

Education and Experience

The requirements listed below are representative of the education and/or experience required:

- Successful completion of On Boarding program
- Current Registered Nurse license in home country and nursing experience of at least 2 years
- Experience in working with different cultures and in low-resource environments required
- Experience in Palliative Care or in a similar field of nursing preferred

Qualifications

The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required:

- Supportive of Mercy Ships mission and vision, and committed to its core values
- Understand and apply servant leadership, work collaboratively with integrity and demonstrate accountability
- Able to live in and contribute to community life, requiring stable and healthy interpersonal skills
- Person of integrity with an active relationship with God
- Compassionate, humble, and a willingness to be an emotional spiritual and physical support to those in need of palliative care
- Openness to learn from other cultures and sensitivity to the host-culture is required
- Fluent in written & spoken English
- Must have valid driver's license (more than 5 years preferably) in home country, an international drivers permit, and willingness to drive in the host country. Will be expected to drive as part of departmental responsibilities.

Impact

Over 2.8 million lives have been transformed by our work since 1978, an average of 66,000 services offered per year.

- We have completed more than 1,110 community development projects including the reconstruction of schools, clinics, orphanages, water wells and agriculture programmes. Providing local training and infrastructure to enable and sustain their future success.
- We have trained more than 6,600 local professionals (including surgeons) who have in turn trained many others, over 252,000 local people, in basic healthcare.
- The *Global Mercy* and the *Africa Mercy* are the two largest charity hospital ships in the world, and together hold 11 state-of-the-art operating theatres and 279 patient beds.
- We have provided care in over 55 of the world's developing nations.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Patient Services

- Work under the direction of the Palliative Care Nurse Team Leader in administering care to terminally ill people and their families
- Provide holistic palliative home-care for terminally ill patients who seek assistance from Mercy Ships and live within a short journey of the ship
- Support terminally ill patients and their family members through the grieving process, preparing them for death
- Train and assist family members with wound care for the afflicted person
- Encourage the use of local affordable materials and locally available analgesia
- Share basic health principles with terminally ill patients and family members in order to improve their health (e.g. diet, hygiene)
- Encourage the family to find ways to be self-supporting and teach them about planning for the future (e.g. income generating programs and savings)

Capacity Building

- Assist the Palliative Care Team in reaching out to local Health Care professionals who care for palliative patients; build meaningful relationships, assess their practical and intellectual needs and assist them in sustainable and culturally appropriate ways, through mentoring and teaching
- Assist in reaching out to local religious institutions and the community, mobilize them to support families who have a terminally ill person
- Assist in teaching sessions for local community leaders in conjunction with other Mercy Ships programs, with a special focus on the spiritual care
- Encourage the formation of Support Groups among palliative care patients and their family members
- Due to the ever changing staffing levels and field service rotations, all staff may be re-assigned to temporarily fill roles in other departments in a time of need
- Covering for the team leader, when that person is out of the port city or country: leading the team in daily activities, organizing schedules, providing a weekly overview of required statistics, collaborating with other hospital departments in screening and referral procedures, among others
- Other duties as assigned

Our work

Mariama's story

Mariama is a lively and healthy baby, but a severe facial cleft strained her joyful smile. This facial cleft affected 7-month-old Mariama's lip and nose, making it difficult for her to eat and causing her parents to worry about their child's future.

Since paediatric services capable of treating baby Mariama's condition were not available near the family, local doctors directed her father to Senegal's capital city in hopes of finding help.

It was there that he heard about a hospital ship capable of providing healing for his little girl.

Soon after, Mariama received an operation onboard the *Africa Mercy* that repaired her cleft lip. After surgery, Mariama and her family stayed at the HOPE Centre, where her mother learned how to make nutritional baby formula and learned about the importance of nutrition for her child. Now, Mariama is home with her family, happy and healthy!

