



Role Description

Support and Information Volunteer

Supervisor: OGCancerNI - Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteering Opportunities: Yearly planned events – Support & Information desk, Mobile Unit and other opportunities

Location: Community and hospital settings within Northern Ireland

What is Oesophago-Gastric Cancer?

Oesophageal cancer is cancer of the gullet and gastric cancer is cancer of the stomach. Combined, they are medically known as oesophago-gastric (OG) cancer. The oesophagus (more commonly known as the gullet or food pipe) is the long tube that carries food from the throat to the stomach. In Northern Ireland in 2016, a total of 226 people were diagnosed with oesophageal (gullet) cancer. In the same year, 214 people were newly diagnosed with gastric (stomach) cancer.

Who We Are:

OGCancerNI is a charity, formed specifically to benefit patients and families affected by Oesophago-gastric cancer in Northern Ireland.

The committee and volunteers of OGCancerNI previously worked under the auspices of OPANI, however they will now take the lead role in running this new charity, having recognised the benefits in creating a separate Northern Ireland charity to maximise support locally.

OGCancerNI's Objectives:

- To support patients and carers affected by Oesophago-Gastric (Oesophageal & Stomach) Cancer
- To communicate the early signs and symptoms of OG cancer to promote early intervention
- To work in partnership with healthcare providers in Northern Ireland to be a patients advocate and promote the best outcomes for sufferers
- To act as the Voice of Patients and provide insight, support and care in a professional manner.

The role:

Support and information volunteers are needed at various locations in NI to hold information stands in hospitals and other community settings.

This is a **part-time volunteering role** that will give the ideal volunteer the opportunity to support our growing team as we strive to reach and support everyone affected by Oesophago-gastric cancer in Northern Ireland.

You will help us to:

- Distribute our publications and resources
- Engage with people affected by Oesophago-gastric cancer who approach our information and awareness stands, signposting them to appropriate information and services

- Monitor the number of people that visit the stands and what publications you give out
- Make a difference to people affected by Oesophago-gastric cancer
- Identify and target a range of suitable local outlets for information about Oesophago-gastric cancer in your region

You will be supported in your role by members of our team and will be kept informed of other volunteering opportunities within the association.

We are looking for a volunteer who:

- Has excellent listening and communication skills
- Has empathy for those affected by Oesophago-gastric cancer
- Has an understanding of the importance of confidentiality and personal boundaries
- Has a good knowledge of Oesophago-gastric cancer
- Is able to recognise and respect a diversity of views and attitudes
- Is self-motivated, confident, reliable and has good time management
- Works well in a team, as well as independently with guidance and supervision
- Is committed to the associations objectives
- Aims to be committed to the role for at least six months to one year

Examples of general tasks will include:

- Holding a support and information stand in the Belfast City Hospital and community settings, often alongside other volunteers, as agreed with the OG Coordinator
- Speaking with people who approach the stands to share information and signpost to appropriate services
- Ensuring the supply of up-to-date and relevant information in specified locations and outlets
- Liaising with health professionals and other staff at the stands to outline what support OGCancerNI can offer them and their patients
- Representing and promoting the association at events
- Raising awareness of the needs of people affected by Oesophago-gastric cancer
- Attending support and supervision sessions and training events as requested

What we can offer you:

- Making a valuable contribution to the work of OGCancerNI
- Gaining experience for your CV
- Meeting new people
- Experience of being part of a busy, enthusiastic and supportive association
- Ongoing support within your role
- One to one support from our OG Coordinator
- Reimbursement of reasonable expenses in line with our Volunteer Expenses Policy

Term: Rolling period, with six month reviews. We would like someone to be able to commit to the role for a minimum of 6-12 months.

Hours: Information stands are normally held on Tuesdays between approximately 10am and 12.00 noon - we would like you to offer 1 day per month to this role. There are also opportunities to work with our Mobile Unit as it travels around Northern Ireland. Timings of events would be subject to the events themselves. Other opportunities to volunteer can be carried out at home for example telephone calls to patients. Timings for these events are subject to agreement with the patient and your availability.

Legal requirement: Right to work in the UK (you will need to provide original documentation as proof).

How do I apply?

Please send us an email outlining your relevant experience and why you're interested in this volunteer role, together with your CV, to info@ogcancerri.com we will then contact you to arrange an informal telephone call to discuss the role, and any further details we may need.

Thank you very much for your interest in this role. We look forward to hearing from you. For more information on how you can get involved with and support OGCancerNI please visit www.ogcancerri.com