

Volunteer Role Description:

Drugs in Breastmilk Volunteer Pharmacist

Please note that the role requires volunteers to undertake a DBS or PVG check

Background

The Breastfeeding Network (BfN) aims to be an independent source of support and information for breastfeeding women and others.

It aims:

- To inform, educate and support families in feeding and nurturing babies and young children
- To enable communities to support breastfeeding through sharing information, training and volunteering
- To contribute to evidence-based policy making for government, healthcare providers and educators
- To promote the mental and physical wellbeing of mothers and babies through supporting breastfeeding

As part of the charity's commitment to the above, BfN has been running a **Drugs in Breastmilk Information Service (DiBM)** since 1997. The service provides information and support for parents about the effects of medication, procedures and other products on breastfeeding. In 2019 Swansea University undertook an independent evaluation of the service and concluded that the service was a lifeline to parents. With this evidence, the trustees of the charity are committed to sustaining the service.

Our volunteers sit at the heart of our organisation, giving their time to support families in their communities, over helplines and through social media.

Main duties

- Respond to enquiries (posted on the dedicated Facebook page and via email) as part of a volunteer team, on an agreed rota basis.
- Provide empathic, non-judgmental and evidence-based support to service-users
- Empower new parents so that they gain the confidence they need to breastfeed for as long as they wish
- Signpost mothers who need further breastfeeding support and information to the National Breastfeeding Helpline (NBH) or local groups.
- Maintain up to date knowledge of and commit to working within all of BfN's policies and framework, including Code of Conduct, Safeguarding, Information Governance, IT and Health & Safety
- Complete all tasks necessary to maintain current registration with BfN
- Attend and contribute to monthly supervision sessions
- Support reviewing of the BfN Drugs Factsheets

Time commitment

- Be available to attend our Helper/DiBM training over a three-month period
- Be available to volunteer for 4-6 hours each week, on a flexible rota basis for a minimum of one year

Person Specification: Drugs in Breastmilk Volunteer Pharmacist

Please refer to this document carefully when completing your application form and preparing for your interview. You must demonstrate how you meet the criteria on your application form.

| Qualifications | Essential | Desirable |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Degree in Pharmacy (eg. BSc Pharmacy, MPharm) | ✓ | |
| Registered with GPhC (General Pharmaceutical Council) | ✓ | |
| Volunteer to hold own Professional Indemnity Insurance | ✓ | |
| Willingness to complete the BfN Helper/DiBM course | ✓ | |

| Experience and Knowledge | Essential | Desirable |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Experience of breastfeeding at least one baby for at least four months | ✓ | |
| Commitment to the values of BfN | ✓ | |
| Experience of using social media to support others | | ✓ |

| Skills and Abilities | Essential | Desirable |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Ability to complete Helper/DiBM training, use social media and email in English | ✓ | |
| Ability to use social media and email in languages other than English | | ✓ |
| Ability to work effectively as part of a team | ✓ | |
| Excellent interpersonal and communication skills | ✓ | |
| Ability to work with people from different cultures sensitively | ✓ | |
| Ability to keep the confidentiality of those that contact the service | ✓ | |
| Awareness and commitment to Equal Opportunities | ✓ | |
| IT skills including Facebook, Word, Excel, email and internet | ✓ | |