Volunteering at Bergen New Bridge

The mission of Volunteer Services is to provide support services to the patients, residents, visitors, and staff in various areas throughout Bergen New Bridge Medical Center.

We offer a unique variety of volunteer opportunities spanning the wealth of services provided to our patients and residents throughout the Long Term Care, Acute/Ambulatory Services, and Behavioral Health Services. Volunteers interested in Behavioral Health must be a minimum of 22 years old.

The rewards of volunteering are many:

• Volunteering provides valuable work experience that young people need in applying for jobs, scholarships, and college programs.
• You may develop an interest in a medical profession or a particular skill.
• You will receive the intangible rewards of contributing to patient care and recovery.

About Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center (BNBMC), a clinical affiliate of Rutgers, is a 1,070-bed hospital located at 230 East Ridgewood Avenue in Paramus, NJ. Founded in 1916 to treat patients with contagious diseases, the Medical Center is both the largest hospital and licensed nursing home in New Jersey and the fourth-largest publicly-owned hospital in the nation.

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, a not-for-profit safety net facility, provides high-quality comprehensive services, including acute care, behavioral health care, and long-term care to the greater Bergen County community. The Medical Center, including its Long-Term Care Division, is fully accredited by The Joint Commission. Bergen New Bridge Medical Center is one of the largest medical facilities providing a continuum of care for the behavioral health community.

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center offers acute medical services, including 24/7 emergency department, surgical suites, physical rehabilitation, pharmacy, laboratory, radiologic services (including digital mammography), and more than 26 medical specialties available through its Ambulatory Care Center. The Medical Center is a Veterans Choice Provider proudly serving the healthcare needs of veterans. Learn more at www.newbridgehealth.org.
Volunteer Assignments

The following are just a few of the volunteer assignments available to individuals as well as groups at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center (BNBMC):

- Clerical
- Concierge Services
- Emergency Department
- Friendly Visitor Program
- Horticultural Therapy
- Pastoral Care
- Pet Therapy with a certified pet
- Therapeutic Recreational Therapy

We invite you to learn more about how to make a difference in the lives of our patients and residents by becoming a volunteer.

If you would like to volunteer at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, please read our requirements, then call 201.967.4615 for further information.

Volunteer applications are available in the Volunteer Office or from our website at www.newbridgehealth.org.

How to Volunteer

The Medical Center requires a completed Volunteer Application. The parental/guardian section must be signed if the prospective volunteer is a minor (under 18 years of age) or under legal guardianship. Along with the application, volunteers are required to submit two written references. These references can be from a former employer, teacher, clergy person or volunteer coordinator. Unfortunately, letters from family members are not acceptable.

It is the policy of BNBMC to conduct background checks on all of its volunteers. Volunteers will not be assigned without background clearance. This will be performed prior to you beginning your volunteer assignment. An orientation will be scheduled when the background check is completed.

Additionally, you will need a two-step Mantoux skin test (PPD). The test is given in two parts, one week apart, to demonstrate the absence of tuberculosis. Each of these tests must be "read" by the Employee Health Nurse or his/her designee within 48 to 72 hours after it has been administered. Mantoux (PPD) tests are simple, painless, and provided at no cost. You will be scheduled for the Mantoux test after your background check has been completed. If you have had a previous positive result on Mantoux testing or have been treated for tuberculosis, a chest x-ray is necessary. Mantoux testing, which is required by the State of New Jersey for all volunteers, will not be done without a completed/signed TB Skin Test Consent and Results Form (minors and those under guardianship must have parental/guardian signatures).

In addition, you will be oriented to key Medical Center policies and procedures in the areas of patient rights, fire safety, infection control/prevention, confidentiality, etc.

Volunteer Requirements

Volunteers working at Bergen New Bridge Medical Center must fulfill the following:

**Dress Code** – the quality of patient/resident care is often judged by the appearance of staff and volunteers. It is essential that you dress in a professional manner. Volunteers are required to wear their ID badge at all times.

**Tuberculosis Testing** – volunteers are required to have a Mantoux (PPD) test annually. This test is performed at no cost to the volunteer.

**Flu Vaccination** - volunteers are required to receive an annual flu vaccination, provided by BNBMC at no cost to the volunteer.

**Customer Service** – Patients and residents come to us with diverse backgrounds, apprehensions, and social and medical needs. Healthcare facilities themselves can appear to be strange and sometimes frightening places; we must be sensitive to patient and resident needs at all times. Demonstrating the Medical Center’s core values is important in every contact with patients, families and friends.

Volunteers must abide by Bergen New Bridge Medical Center’s Rules of Behavior.

**Advantages of Volunteering**

- Meal vouchers are provided to all volunteers who work four or more hours in one day.
- Volunteer recognition events are held at various times throughout the year.
- You can make a difference in the lives of our patients and residents.