



Caring for the Mormon Patient

The Mormon Church, otherwise known as The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, was founded in Western New York, USA in 1820. Today the headquarters of the Church is in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

Mormons believe that their founder, Joseph Smith, was visited by an angel and shown where to find a golden book, which he translated into English as the "Book of Mormons". This book teaches that Jesus re-founded the Christian Church in America, and that when He returns to earth to establish His Kingdom, it will have two world capitals, one in Jerusalem and one in America. The teaching differs from that of the Christian Church on many significant points of doctrine.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Mormons worship using both the Book of Mormons and the King James (Authorised) version of the Bible. These must be treated with respect.

CLOTHING - Some Mormons wear a sacred undergarment which is only removed for reasons of hygiene and laundering. This may be a one or two piece garment, and may be made of different fabrics. It may be removed for surgical procedures and operations, but it must be treated with great respect.

DIET - Mormons follow a strict health code. They are not normally vegetarians but they will only eat meat very sparingly, avoiding products with much blood. They do not drink tea, coffee or alcohol and the provision of milk, water and fruit juices would be appreciated. The Mormon Church advocates self-denial, and holds a fast day once a month.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION / ORGAN DONATION / TRANSPLANT - There are no religious objections to these.

PRAYER

Contact with other members of the Church is important, and the local church would supply a Bishop who will give blessings and minister to the sick. "Home Teachers" will visit and support members in hospital. Privacy for prayer would be helpful.

AS DEATH APPROACHES

There are no ritual acts for the dying, but the local Bishop can be asked to come and say prayers. Contact numbers can be found in this file but active members of the church will know how to contact their Bishop.

LAST OFFICES

Routine Last Offices are appropriate. If the sacred garment has been worn by the patient in life it must be replaced on the body of the deceased after the Last Offices have been completed. There are no religious objections to post-mortems.

Decisions about this should be discussed with the family in the usual way. Burial is the norm, and cremation is not encouraged, but a decision about this is regarded as a family responsibility.

EVERY MORMON PATIENT IS AN INDIVIDUAL AND PRACTICE MAY VARY