

Nuji- Apoqnmuet

Mi'kmaw Patient Helpers



Frequently Asked Questions:

What/Who are the Nuji-Apoqnmuet team?

- The Nuji-Apoqnmuet team are Mi'kmaw patient helpers located in specific hospital sites designed to be a supportive contact for Mi'kmaw patients and families in hospitals.

Who do they work for?

- The Nuji-Apoqnmuet are employees of Tajikeimik, the Mi'kmaw Health and Wellness organization. Although they work in hospitals, they are not employees of the hospitals, Nova Scotia Health, or IWK.

Are Nuji-Apoqnmuet in every hospital in the province?

- No, they are not available in every hospital. At full capacity, there will be seven team members located at specific hospital sites across the province. Three full time and four part-time positions. For location information, please contact Tajikeimik or visit our website.

What do they do?

- The role of the Nuji-Apoqnmuet is to provide in-hospital support for Mi'kmaw patients and their families. They offer wholistic support, including friendly visits, assistance with small errands, conversational language support for patients, spiritual support such as prayers, communication with hospital staff, and connections to the community when needed.

Are they nurses or medically trained to provide care?

- No, the Nuji-Apoqnmuet(s) are non-medical/non-clinical support staff. They cannot provide medical care, treatments, crisis intervention or offer any medical advice.

Do they automatically know or get a notification when a Mi'kmaw patient is in the hospital?

- No. Knowing, who is in the hospital, is challenging; the Nuji-Apoqnmuet team does not have access to Nova Scotia Health/IWK Hospital patient names or admission lists. It is important that patients who want to see the Nuji-Apoqnmuet reach out to them or are supported by hospital staff to assist in connecting to them.

How do patients see them? Can a patient self-refer?

- Patients can contact the Nuji-Apoqnmuet directly in person, call them on their cell phones, or can ask hospital staff for assistance in connecting. Family members or friends may also inform the Nuji-Apoqnmuet that someone is in the hospital, and they will come to see the patient to obtain consent for a visit. Hospital staff can refer patients or assist in contacting when asked to do so by patients or families.

Are Nuji-Apoqnmuet bound by confidentiality?

- YES, Nuji-Apoqnmuet will maintain patient privacy and keep information confidential. They receive privacy training and have signed an Oath of Confidentiality with their employer.

Are Nuji-Apoqnmuet translators or interpreters for NSH/IWK?

- Tajikeimik recognizes the importance of language for Mi'kmaw patients accessing hospital services. Most Nuji-Apoqnmuet are Mi'kmaw speakers and assist Mi'kmaw patients in the hospital with language supports and interpretation when needed. However, Nuji-Apoqnmuet are not trained translators/interpreters. They do not provide Mi'kmaw translation or interpretation services for NSH/IWK or on behalf of NSH/IWK language services.

Do Nuji-Apoqnmuet do home visits? Or visit patients when they are discharged?

- No, the Nuji-Apoqnmuet is a team that assists patients in-hospital only.

What are their hours of availability?

- **QEII, IWK & Dartmouth General:**
Mon–Fri, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- **Cape Breton Regional Hospital:**
Mon–Fri, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- **Colchester & New Glasgow (Amherst as needed):**
Mon–Fri, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
- **Inverness & Antigonish (Baddeck as needed):**
Mon, 12–4:30 p.m. | Tues–Wed, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Please note, we are a small team. Weekend coverage is not currently available, and the team is not available 24/7.

Where can I get more information about Nuji-Apoqnmuet?

- Email questions to: taji@mhwns.ca
- Website: www.mhwns.ca or scan the QR code

