



Staff Handbook

Schedule 19 - Compassionate Leave

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Andrew Martin	<Author>

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Name	Role
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Jo Chadwick	HR

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Schedule 19

Compassionate Leave Policy

1. About this policy

- 1.1 Compassionate leave is designed to help you cope with the death of a close relative, deal with necessary arrangements and attend their funeral. It may also be granted where a close relative is seriously or critically ill.
- 1.2 This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and we may amend it at any time.

2. Entitlement

- 2.1 You are entitled to take paid compassionate leave of up to 2 days in any 12-month period in respect of a spouse or partner, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, step-parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, brother or sister, stepbrother or stepsister, or brother or sister-in-law.
- 2.2 We may exercise our discretion to grant a period of compassionate leave in respect of any other relative or close friend, depending on the circumstances of each case.
- 2.3 If you are still unable to return to work following an authorised period of compassionate leave you should contact HR. It may be appropriate to take a period of annual leave, subject to approval, or we may at our discretion grant you further unpaid leave in those circumstances.

3. Requesting compassionate leave

- 3.1 We recognise that it may not always be possible to request compassionate leave in advance. However, where it is possible, you should make a request to your Principal Consultant and HR. You should tell them the reasons for your request and the number of days leave you would like to take.
- 3.2 Where it is not possible to request leave in advance you should contact your Principal Consultant and HR as soon as possible to tell them the reason for your absence and the number of days you expect to be absent. Someone can do this on your behalf if necessary.