

11 June 2025

Vegan Options in Hospitals

I am seeking information on vegan options at hospitals under your remit, whether nutritionally complete and appropriate meals are guaranteed, and whether you have undertaken an equality impact assessment under the Public Sector Equality Duty for vegans in hospital.

1. Are nutritionally complete and appropriate vegan options available at all hospitals?

Belfast Trust has a range of vegan dishes including soups, curries, casseroles, pies, drinks, snacks and breakfast options available in all hospitals.

2. Are nutritionally appropriate vegan options guaranteed at all hospitals at all times?

Belfast Trust can provide vegan options for breakfast, lunch, tea, snacks and drinks.

3. Have you undertaken an equality impact assessment for vegans in hospital? If yes, can you provide a copy of the assessment?

No

4. As you know, vegans in hospital can suffer if they don't have access to healthy nutritionally appropriate food. Is your organisation following it's public sector equality duty toward vegans? Please provide any documents or information to explain whether and how the PSED is being followed towards vegans.

Our current 3 weekly menu cycle ensures that we cater for a wide range of dietary requirements including vegan patients, ensuring that they all have access to healthy nutritionally appropriate food. Where suitable options are not available for an individual patient on the menu, the medical/nursing team will alert the catering team who would arrange provision of suitable meals, drinks and snacks.

5. For vegans who arrive in hospital because an unforeseen emergency, are they guaranteed access to nutritionally appropriate vegan food?

Yes, if a vegan patient is admitted to ED the process is that medical staff alert the catering team who would arrange provision of suitable meals, drinks and snacks.

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6. For vegan pregnant women, what steps are in place to ensure that they will have access to nutritionally appropriate vegan food if they have an extended stay in hospital, or during/after/or before giving birth?

If a vegan pregnant woman is admitted to hospital the process is that medical staff alert the catering team who would ensure provision of suitable meals, drinks and snacks.

7. For elderly vegans who may have an extended stay in hospital, what steps are in place to ensure that they will have access to nutritionally appropriate vegan food at hospitals?

If an elderly vegan patient has an extended stay in hospital, the process is that medical staff alert the catering team who would ensure provision of suitable meals, drinks and snacks.