



Volunteering

1. Guillain-Barré & Associated Inflammatory Neuropathies (GAIN) prides itself on having volunteers who are familiar with the conditions and support the objects of the charity. GAIN is not a befriending service but can offer peer support to patients and their families. Volunteers are needed to help with fundraising through raising awareness and talking to the newly diagnosed patient or their family.
2. Volunteers should be aware that very few patients request direct contact, and you may only be called upon a handful of times each year. GAIN volunteers must not approach hospitals or rehabilitation centres other than to provide information about the charity and service it provides to members of staff. If you are a registered hospital volunteer, you will still need to register with GAIN if you wish to speak with patients and their families and offer charity information or access to virtual or face to face meetings. Sometimes the most suitable volunteer to speak to a patient may not be the most local, so contact needs to be coordinated via GAIN.
3. To enable us to safeguard volunteers we ask that you are members of the charity and sign an agreement with the Charity accepting GAIN's volunteer terms. You will be issued with a GAIN email address. GAIN will contact volunteers if a speaker or patient direct contact request is received to check their availability. Help and information about volunteering is available from GAIN.

Volunteers must....	Volunteers must not....
Be a good listener & be empathetic	Offer medical advice
Organise and commit your time	Patronise patients or their families
Understand GBS/CIDP & related conditions	Email patient information to the office using anything other than the @gaincharity.org.uk email address provided
Be IT literate & have access to email, Skype, Facetime, WhatsApp, instant messaging, or similar communication methods	Retain any personal or sensitive information about people they speak to on behalf of GAIN
Keep the office informed of all volunteering undertaken (incl direct contact through social media ie Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, hospital or rehab centres)	Talk about patients to other people (except GAIN office staff)
Understand GAIN policy & guidelines and undertake any appropriate training	Transport patients or families in their private vehicle
Be prepared to provide details of 2 referees & undertake a DBS check (needed if visiting hospitals, rehabilitation centres or care homes)	Visit patients or families in their own home