Website Accessibility Statement

1.0 Introduction

Verity Healthcare is committed to providing our customers with a website that is accessible to the widest possible audience, regardless of technology or ability.

We want everyone who visits the Verity health website to feel welcome and find the experience rewarding.

2.0 A website accessible to all

To help us make the Verity Healthcare website a positive place for everyone we've been using the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0. These guidelines explain how to make web content more accessible for people with disabilities, and user friendly for everyone.

We believe that this website meets or exceeds the requirements of the level A criteria of the WCAG 2.0 guidelines.

This website has several features designed to make it as accessible as possible to users with impairments or special requirements. We will continue to develop our editorial guidelines to ensure we produce accessible content.

Consequently, the website is continually evolving with many updates to ensure that client's need are met at all times.

3.0 Semantic markup

This site is built using well-structured, semantic markup. All pages on this site use structured semantic markup.
The correct markup tags H1 tags are used for main titles, H2 tags for subtitles as well as for the content, ensuring our pages can be read and interpreted by not only web browsers, but also screen readers and other assistive devices.

4.0 Website Functionality

The website is built with current functionality and efforts are made to keep the website up to date by:
- Maintaining a standard, conventional layout and structure throughout the website.
- Using the correct and appropriate HTML tags to mark up our pages and content.
- Using CSS to control styling and presentation of pages.
- Using JavaScript in an unobtrusive manner, thus separating content from both presentation and behaviour.

- Checking contrast levels between elements, enhancing legibility of content for those who may be visually impaired.
- Employing a logical typographical hierarchy for content, enhancing readability.
- Using table-based markup only for tabular data, and never for layout or presentation.
- Using an adaptive page layout system, allowing content to be shown in a way which is appropriate to the viewing device.
- Write content in a style which is understandable and easy to follow.

Should there be an instance when our site does not meet the needs of a specific user group and it is necessary we make changes to our content, structure or markup then we will endeavour to make the necessary changes to ensure that our site is as accessible as possible. Feel free to contact us at info@verityhealthcare.co.uk

We have used our knowledge and understanding of how different people access the internet to develop a website that is clear and simple for everybody to use. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the accessibility of this site, please contact us, as we are continually striving to improve the experience for all visitors.

5.0 Standards compliance and validation

In designing the website, we have used the XHTML 1.0 and CSS specifications created by the W3C, as we believe that usability and accessibility must have a solid foundation. We have also endeavored to achieve AA accessibility as measured against version 1.0 of the WCAG. We are aware however, that a number of the checkpoints of the WCAG are subjective – and although we are sure that we have met them squarely, there may be instances where interpretation may vary.

6.0 Layout

The website uses cascading style sheets for visual layout. In browsers which do not support style sheets, the flow of content has been tested to ensure it completely retains its sense. A separate print style sheet is used to remove unnecessary navigation elements.

7.0 Navigation and navigation aids

The website's primary navigation is located at the top of each page. Predominantly secondary navigation elements are contained in the left-hand column, however this does not appear on all pages. A link to the home page is available on each page through the Helping Hands logo. All navigation elements are marked up as HTML unordered lists and styled with CSS.

8.0 Image Concepts.

All content images used in this site include descriptive alternative text attributes. Where an image is used for a decorative purpose the alternative text will be left blank.

The website is designed based on the concept that:
Images must have text alternatives that describe the information or function represented by them. This ensures that images can be used by people with various disabilities. This tutorial demonstrates how to provide appropriate text alternatives based on the purpose of the image:

Informative images. Images that graphically represent concepts and information, typically pictures, photos, and illustrations. The text alternative should be at least a short description conveying the essential information presented by the image.
Decorative images: Provide a null text alternative (alt="") when the only purpose of an image is to add visual decoration to the page, rather than to convey information that is important to understanding the page.
Functional images: The text alternative of an image used as a link or as a button should describe the functionality of the link or button rather than the visual image. Examples of such images are a printer icon to represent the print function or a button to submit a form.

Images of text: Readable text is sometimes presented within an image. If the image is not a logo, avoid text in images. However, if images of text are used, the text alternative should contain the same words as in the image.
Complex images such as graphs and diagrams: To convey data or detailed information, provide a full-text equivalent of the data or information provided in the image as the text alternative.
Groups of images: If multiple images convey a single piece of information, the text alternative for one image should convey the information for the entire group.
Image maps: The text alternative for an image that contains multiple clickable areas should provide an overall context for the set of links. Also, each individually clickable area should have alternative text that describes the purpose or destination of the link.

9.0 JavaScript

We use JavaScript on this website to improve the experience for most of our users. However some of these enhancements can become an inconvenience in certain conditions, so we have ensured the site is still accessible when JavaScript has been disabled.

10. Text resizing

Font sizes can be changed by altering your browser settings. This website has been built using relative font sizes, and will seamlessly adapt to user requirements.

You can vary the text size by using your browser's text resize option: in many web browsers this can be accessed by selecting "View" -> "Text Size" or by pressing Ctrl + and Ctrl - on your keyboard.

11.0 Colour contrast

Foreground and background colours on this website have been selected to provide a proper level of contrast for ease of reading.

We have checked text and background color combinations to ensure that the contrast is sufficient and we have also ensured that information is not referenced by color alone

12.0 Browsers

This site has been built using code compliant with W3C standards for HTML and CSS. Our website should display correctly in the current and previous two versions of the following browsers: Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer, Safari, and Opera.

Our website has also been built to adapt to the screens of the modern mobile devices such as iPhone, iPad, or Android phones.

13.0 Alternative text for images

All appropriate images have been given alternative text so that reading devices can "understand" them.

14.0 Exceptions

Whilst Verity Healthcare strives to adhere to the accepted guidelines and standards for accessibility and usability, it is not always possible to do so in all areas of the website. We are continually seeking out solutions that will bring all areas of the site up to the same level of overall accessibility. In the meantime should you experience any difficulty in accessing the Verity Healthcare website, please don't hesitate to **contact us**.