

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

The Hematology/Oncology Health Care Team

There are many people on your child's health care team. They share information about your child's condition and treatment, and work together to meet your child's needs. You will always be able to talk to someone on your child's health care team who can help you and your child.

It can be hard to know who's in charge of what. It's OK for you to ask members of your child's health care team who they are, what their jobs are, and how you can call them if you need to. It can be hard to remember everyone's name, so you can write their names here.

Your Hematology/Oncology health care team members include:

Your family

You know your child better than anyone else. Your family is your child's biggest support. Be an active part of your child's care. When you are worried about how your child looks, feels, or acts, tell your child's doctor or nurse. Talk to other members of the team, and make treatment decisions together. Ask questions when you don't understand.



**Your family is
your child's biggest
support.**

Pediatric oncology physician

The pediatric oncology doctor talks to you. With you, he or she decides what treatments your child will have. This doctor decides what tests and treatments to do, what medicine to give, and when your child can leave the hospital. This doctor meets with the other members of your child's health care team to make sure everyone is working together toward the same goal.



The pediatric oncology doctor talks to you, and with you, decides what treatments your child will have.

Pediatric oncology nurse practitioner

This nurse has special training to do many of the things your child's doctor can do. Nurse practitioners take care of children both in the hospital and in the clinic. Like other members of the health care team, they will teach you how to care for your child at home.

Nurse practitioners also do case management. They check with your insurance company to see that your child gets services as they are needed, such as lab tests and therapy. They also make sure you have the supplies and follow-up care you need to take care of your child at home.

Pediatric oncology nurse clinician

Your child may have one or two nurses who will work closely with you to meet your child's needs. They may help you get supplies to use at home. They may tell your insurance company what medicines, tests, and procedures your child needs. Like other members of the health care team, they will teach you about your child's illness and treatments, and how to care for your child at home.

Oncology counselor or Social Worker

This counselor can help your family in many ways. Your counselor can help support you and your family. He or she works with the health care team to help you

understand and deal with your child's illness. Your counselor is a good listener, and can help you with parenting and school concerns. He or she may connect you to groups and agencies in the community that can help you and your family.

Pharmacist

Your child's pharmacist has special training in oncology. He or she makes sure your child gets the medicine he or she needs.

Residents

Residents are doctors available for your child 24 hours a day. Many doctors come to Phoenix Children's Hospital to learn how to better take care of ill children. Interns and Residents have finished medical school. They are here to learn more about taking care of children with cancer (pediatric hematology/oncology). A Resident will work with your child's pediatric oncology physician to care for your child.

Specialists

Your child's doctor may ask a specialist to help decide what is best for your child. These doctors may specialize in areas like Surgery, Neurology (brain and nerves), Nephrology (kidneys), Pulmonary (lungs), Cardiology (heart), Endocrinology (hormones), Infectious Diseases (germs) or other things. When specialists examine your child, you may ask what they specialize in and why your child needs to be seen by them.

Nurses

The nurses taking care of your child in the hospital and in the clinic are trained in pediatric oncology. They went to school and took a test to become a Registered Nurse. Some have national certifications or advanced degrees. Some nurses specialize in starting IVs.

The nurse also gets to know your child and family. The bedside nurse



Your team members will teach you about your child's illness and treatments, and how to care for your child at home.

comforts your child when you are not there, and gives you and your child support. The nurse calls other health care team members in when they are needed. The nurse gives your child the medicines and treatments needed, and watches for your child's response. The nurse knows about illness, healing, and medicines, and can answer questions. The nurse works with other team members to teach you what you need to know. Nurses make sure you'll be ready to care for your child at home.

Clinical coordinator

The clinical coordinator runs the hospital unit. The clinical coordinator understands the care each patient needs. The clinical coordinator gets the unit ready for new patients coming in and helps patients transfer smoothly from the one unit to another. Sometimes the clinical coordinator helps staff nurses care for patients. He or she can help you solve problems. Tell the clinical coordinator how you feel about your child's health care team.

Child life specialist

Child life specialists are trained in how to help children and teens cope. They ease children's and teens' fears using therapeutic play. Child life specialists help get them ready for medical tests and treatments. They may also work with your child's brothers and sisters, to help them understand and express their feelings. They tour families before surgery to teach them what to expect. They are in charge of the playroom.



Child life specialists help get children ready for medical tests and treatments.

Volunteers

Volunteers help staff and families in many ways. They bring parents coffee or snacks, help in the playrooms, and hug babies. Volunteers at Phoenix Children's Hospital wear red aprons.

Dietitian

Nutrition is an important part of health. Your child may need special meals or snacks. A dietitian may help with special diets, formulas, tube feedings, or IV nutrition. The dietitian may show you how to make some healthy changes in your child's diet at home.

Schoolteacher

The job of a child is to go to school. We want your child to attend school during his or her hospital stay. Our teacher will work with your child's teacher to develop a lesson plan.

Chaplain

When your child is sick, you may want spiritual support. Your nurse can help you speak with a Chaplain. You may also invite your own religious leader to visit you and your child in the hospital. You can have private time for prayer at the bedside.

The Chapel is on the main floor of the hospital, past the elevators on the right. It is open to everyone.



If you have any questions or concerns,
 call your child's doctor or call _____

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-546-1400
www.phoenixchildrens.com

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

Thursday, February 15, 2007 • DRAFT to family review
#738 • Written by Cheryl Stoneberger, RN • Illustrated by Dennis Swain



Name of Health Care Provider: _____ Number: 738
For office use: Date returned: _____ db nb

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.

Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read? Yes No

easy to read? Yes No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read? Yes No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading
this handout? Yes No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any
questions about the subject? Yes No

If yes, what?

Is there anything you don't like about the drawings?

Yes No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

Fran London, MS, RN
Health Education Specialist
The Emily Center
Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016-7710

602-546-1395

flondon@phoenixchildrens.com

Thank you for helping us!