



The Emily Center

About the Hematology/Oncology Clinic at Phoenix Children's Hospital

Procedure/Treatment/Home Care
Si usted desea esta información en español,
por favor pídasela a su enfermero o doctor.

#739

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

About the Hematology/Oncology Clinic at Phoenix Children's Hospital

Doctors and nurses will see your child in our outpatient clinic. If you need to make an appointment, call 602-546-0920.

Your child will have a primary nurse clinician, who will work closely with you to meet your child's 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.

As often as possible, you will see your primary nurse when you visit the clinic.

Where is the clinic?

The clinic is at 1919 East Thomas Road, Building B. It is the 4-story building south of the main hospital. You may park free in the parking garage, or in the lot south of the building.

The Hematology/Oncology Clinic is on the 1st floor. It is next to the Pharmacy and the Nephrology Clinic.



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a primary nurse clinician,
who will work closely with you
to meet your child's needs.**

How do I check in?

When you walk into the clinic, go to the desk and sign in.

On your first visit, bring your health insurance card. It will take about 15 minutes to fill out forms before your child goes in to be seen. If you have any questions about what your insurance will pay for, ask the receptionist.

Please come on time for your appointment. This helps us stay on time, so you don't have to wait too long before you are seen.

What happens during an appointment?

You and your child will be called back to be seen. A nurse will measure and weigh your child. The nurse will also check your child's temperature, pulse, and breathing (these are called **vital signs**).

You and your child will go into an examination room. If the doctor wants to check your child's blood, a nurse will take a sample to send to the lab. This is called **blood work**. The lab results may be ready before you leave the clinic.

If the doctor wants your child to have medicine to treat the cancer (**chemotherapy**), it may be done at this time. Sometimes the lab results (**blood counts**) need to come back before we give the chemotherapy.

A doctor or nurse practitioner will examine your child. He or she will look at the blood counts, and talk to you about how your child is doing. If you have any questions, you can ask any doctor or nurse on your child's team at any time.

Some treatments need to be given in the hospital. We will tell you if your child needs to go into the hospital for treatment.



A doctor or nurse practitioner will examine your child.

Your child's nurse will give you a calendar of treatment dates, and explain the treatment.

Sometimes you and your child will wait before or during the appointment. Each exam room has a box with things for your child to play with (activity boxes). When your child is done playing, please put everything back in the box.

Get ready for your clinic visit

You and your child may spend a lot of time in our clinic. There are many things you can do to help make your visits more comfortable.

Make needle pokes easier

Your child's blood tells us how the treatments are working, and what needs to be done next. Your child will often have blood drawn at the clinic.

If your child has a Hickman or Broviac catheter, blood will be drawn from the catheter. Your child will not feel a poke from this.

If your child does not have a Hickman or Broviac catheter, needle pokes are easier if you numb the skin first. EMLA or ELAMAX creams are medicines that numb the skin before needle pokes. If you think your child needs some numbing cream and you do not have any, please ask your doctor to give you a prescription.

If your child has a Port-a-Cath, put numbing cream on the skin over the Port-a-Cath at least 1 hour before your child's appointment.

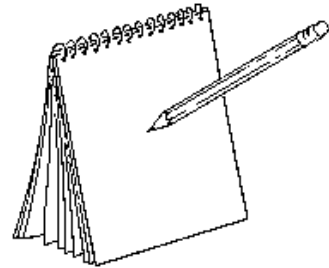
If your child does not have a Hickman, Broviac, or Port-a-cath, you may put numbing cream over a few veins on both of your child's hands.

If your child is getting a spinal tap (also called a **lumbar puncture**), or bone marrow will be drawn (also called **bone marrow aspirate**), your nurse can show you where to put the cream on before your visit.

If you do not have numbing cream, ask the nurse to use a spray to numb the skin before the needle poke.

What should I bring to the clinic?

As you think of questions for your doctor or nurse, write them down. Bring the questions with you to the clinic appointment. Take a paper and pen with you, so you can write things down, if you need to.



Bring a list of all the medicines your child takes. It should have the name of the medicine, how much your child takes, and how often he or she takes it. If you need a form to write the list on, ask your nurse for the handout, **Medicines to Take #337**.

As you think of questions for your doctor or nurse, write them down.

Some treatments need to be done on an empty stomach. We will tell you if your child should not eat or drink for 4 hours before the treatment or procedure (**fasting**). If so, your child will be hungry when the treatment or procedure is over. Bring food! We only have juice and snacks like crackers and granola bars in the kitchen in our clinic.

If your child's treatment will take a long time, you may want to bring things to make it more comfortable, like snacks, music to listen to with headphones, a favorite pillow, and something to do. Each **infusion room** has a TV, and we have movies you and your child can watch.

Treatments in the clinic

Many treatments are done in our clinic, in the infusion room. We give chemotherapy, blood products (like platelets or red blood cells), antibiotics, and IV fluids.

To help make children comfortable, we have couches and recliners they can sit in during their treatments. We have chairs for the parents. If the clinic is not crowded, parents may sit on a couch or recliner until it is needed by a patient.

Since you will spend some time in our clinic, we want it to be comfortable for everyone. Please think about the needs of others. Keep the TV sound low, and keep the space clean and neat.

You and your child can go home when the treatment is done and your child is ready to go. Sometimes children get medicine that makes them sleepy (**sedation**) before a test or treatment. Before these children can leave, they need to wake up and be able to drink clear fluids without a problem.

Before you leave, go to the desk in the front of the clinic and make your next appointment.

Now that you've read this:

Tell your nurse or doctor how you will get ready for your next clinic appointment. (Check when done.)



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.phoenixchildrenshospital.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.

Friday, June 24, 2005 • DRAFT to family review
#739 • Written by Michelle Lamoreaux, RN and Mireya Hayward, RN
Illustrated by Dennis Swain



Procedure/Treatment/Home Care
Si usted desea esta información en español,
por favor pídasela a su enfermero o doctor.

Name of Health Care Provider: _____ Number: 739
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.

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602-546-1395

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Thank you for helping us!