

# Patient Information

## Children with Cancer (Shared Care Patients)

Children's Services



## POSCU

The East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust has a Paediatric Oncology Shared Care Unit (POSCU) at the Lister Hospital. We communicate closely with your primary treatment centre about the care of your child.

## The Multidisciplinary Team

The multidisciplinary team (MDT) is made up with many different health professionals. They work as a team to look after the sick child and their parents. The team meets regularly once per month to ensure that information is shared and child progress established.

## POSCU Consultant

There is a named Lead Consultant which heads the POSCU MDT and is responsible for the overall care of your child.

## POSCU Deputy

The deputy is another senior doctor of the POSCU team who will assist the Lead POSCU Consultant.

## Consultant of the Week

Each week there will be a named Consultant Paediatrician who will be responsible for the care of all children on Bluebell ward on a day to day basis.

## Pharmacist

There is a Lead Paediatric Pharmacist who advises on all medication for children and in particular the prescribing of chemotherapy and other medicines for children with cancer.

## Ward Manager

The Ward Manager is responsible for the day to day running of Bluebell Ward.

Within Bluebell Ward there are eight cubicles, of which two are an en-suite and can be used for the isolation of oncology patients.

When children are in the isolation cubicles they **must not** come out and use the general playroom. Each cubicle has a fold up bed for parents. There are also two locked cabinets for the safe storage of the patient's own medication.

## Ward Link Nurse

Oncology Link Nurses are based on the ward. The Link Nurses provide support and updates for the Paediatric Nursing Team. They are also responsible for patient information and deliver feedback to staff after multidisciplinary meetings.

## Children's Community Nursing Team

Your child should have a Key Worker who is one of the Children's Community Nursing Team. The Key Worker is trained to support the child and family who are undergoing cancer treatment. Further information can be obtained from your Key Worker.

## Play Specialists

There is a team of five Play Specialists. Our Play Specialists will provide your child with specific toys in their own personal boxes. The Play Specialist will assist in distracting your child when investigations need to be carried out e.g. Blood tests, etc.

## Ward Housekeepers

The ward has two housekeepers. They will assist in serving your meals and help to choose your menu. Breakfast is provided for parents and other catering facilities are available.

## Hospital Admissions and Ward Attendance

- Always bring your Shared Care Oncology Parent Help Record with you
- Always bring your child's entire medication.
- Any oncology child requiring an unplanned admission will be advised to go to Bluebell Ward, the children's ward.
- Cubicles will be provided so that your child can be kept in isolation reducing the risk of cross infection.
- The registrar will be notified that you are here to be assessed and decide if you require admission to the ward.

**Please limit visitors to parents and siblings if your child is neutropenic and unwell.**

If your child requires a blood product transfusion, this can be given during the day, usually without the need for an overnight stay.

The length of stay in hospital is sometimes unpredictable but we will keep you updated daily on your child's progress. Your child will be examined by a consultant during their morning rounds and you can discuss any concerns you may have at this time.

We provide a hard-back general information booklet that informs you about all facilities available for all patients to read on the ward.

If your child is an inpatient for any length of time, please ask a member of staff if you need any help on how to obtain subsidised car park tickets.

The direct telephone number to **Bluebell Ward** is **01438 284008**

<b>Consultant</b>	
<b>Ward Manager</b>	
<b>Key Worker</b>	
<b>Link Nurse</b>	

## Coffee Shop

Located opposite reception by the main entrance.

Monday to Friday 08:30 -17:00  
Saturday to Sunday 12:00 -16:45

## Restaurant

Monday to Friday:-  
Breakfast 07:30 - 10:00  
Lunch 12:00 - 14:00  
Supper 18:15 - 20:00

Saturday to Sunday:-  
Breakfast 07:30 - 11:00  
Lunch 12:00 - 14:00  
Supper 18:15 - 20:00

## Access to Other Services

**Paediatric Dietician** is available and works closely with the lead paediatrician and liaises with the dietician at the regional centre.

## Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist

If your child is an inpatient and needs to see any of these therapists, we can refer your child to them.

## Clinical Psychologist

We have a part-time Clinical Psychologist. Your child could be referred to her by the lead consultant if you feel this support may be useful to your child.

## Support Organisations

Printed here are a number of national organisations that can supply help, information and advice to parents:

### Macmillan Cancer Support

Telephone: 0808 808 2020

[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)

### Cancerbackup

Telephone: 0808 800 1234

[www.cancerbackup.org.uk](http://www.cancerbackup.org.uk)

### Contact Magazine

Telephone: 0116 249 4461

Provides magazines for families of children with cancer

### CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children

Telephone: 020 8752 2800

[www.clicsargent.org.uk](http://www.clicsargent.org.uk)

Support for young people with cancer and their families. Counseling and advice from Sargent social workers, respite care, family breaks, adventure holidays and financial help.

### Leukaemia Research Fund

Telephone: 020 7405 0101

[www.lrf.org.uk](http://www.lrf.org.uk)

UK research charity devoted to research into the causes, treatment and prevention of leukaemia and other related diseases. Can provide free patient information booklets on a wide range of blood cancers and other blood disorders.

### Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group

Telephone: 0116 249 4460

[www.childcancer.org.uk](http://www.childcancer.org.uk)

Resources to help families affected by cancer in children including young children and teenagers.

### Leukaemia Care Society

Telephone: 0800 169 6680

Care line: 01905 330003

[www.leukaemicare.org.uk](http://www.leukaemicare.org.uk)

Provides support to families and to patients with leukaemia and allied blood disorders. Provides information, holidays, discretionary financial assistance and support by volunteers (many with personal experience of the illness).

### **Neuroblastoma Society**

Telephone: 01727 851818

[www.nsoc.co.uk](http://www.nsoc.co.uk)

Charity which aims to fund research into illness, and support families of children who have been affected by the disease.

### **The Dancing Eye Syndrome Support Trust**

Telephone: 01903 532 383

[www.dancingeyes.org.uk](http://www.dancingeyes.org.uk)

Supplies information about Dancing Eye Syndrome and Neuroblastoma and offers support by putting families in touch with each other. There is a newsletter and annual meeting.

### **Christian Lewis Children's Cancer Care**

Telephone: 0800 303 031

[www.christianlewis trust.org.uk](http://www.christianlewis trust.org.uk)

Aims to improve the quality of life for children and provide support to their families. They provide information about a national network of approved complementary therapies.

### **Lymphoma Association**

Help line: 0808 808 5555

[www.lymphoma.org.uk](http://www.lymphoma.org.uk)

Provides emotional support and information on a range of issues to anyone with lymphatic cancer and to their families, carers and friends.

### **The Retinoblastoma Society**

Telephone: 020 7600 3309

[www.rbsociety.org.uk](http://www.rbsociety.org.uk)

Supplies information and can put you in touch with other parents of children with retinoblastoma in your area.

### **Teenager Cancer Trust**

Telephone: 020 7387 1000

[www.teenagercancertrust.org](http://www.teenagercancertrust.org)

An organisation championing the needs of teenagers with cancer.

### **TiC (Teen Info on Cancer)**

[www.click4tic.org.uk](http://www.click4tic.org.uk)

Cancer information and support specifically for teenagers.

## **Make a Wish**

[www.make-a-wish.org.uk](http://www.make-a-wish.org.uk)

Granting the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses.

## **Starlight**

Telephone: 020 7262 2881

[www.starlight.org.uk](http://www.starlight.org.uk)

Brightens the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by granting their wishes and providing hospital entertainment to help take their minds off the pain, fear and isolation of their illness.

## **Dreamflight**

Telephone: 01494 792991

[www.dreamflight.org](http://www.dreamflight.org)

Sending seriously ill children on their “Holiday of a Lifetime” to theme parks in Florida

Your Key Worker is \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Details \_\_\_\_\_

## Further information

NHS 111

☎ 111

or Contact your GP

NHS website - [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Bluebell Ward, Lister Hospital  
Stevenage

☎ 01438 284008

Children's Emergency Department  
Lister Hospital

☎ 01438 284333

Urgent Care Centre, New QEII  
Welwyn Garden City

☎ 01707 247549

Community Children's Nursing Team

☎ 01438 288370

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[www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk)

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