

# The Louis Dundas Centre for Palliative Care at GOSH

The Louis Dundas Centre at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) is a specialist palliative care team. We bring together clinical expertise, psychosocial support and academic research to ensure children and their families receive the highest standard of care.



[Information for families](#)

# What is palliative care?

**Palliative care aims to achieve the best quality of life possible for children and their families living with a life-threatening or life-shortening illness.**

**The Louis Dundas Centre cares for children and families from diagnosis or recognition of a life-threatening or life-shortening illness. The team provides specialist support throughout your child's illness, often alongside disease-specific treatments and always working in partnership with other professionals involved in your child's care.**

## Meet the team

We offer a multidisciplinary team approach to palliative care, with clinical, psychosocial and research teams working together.

The Louis Dundas Centre is a specialist service, so we train doctors and other professionals as well as having visitors who spend time with the team for experience.

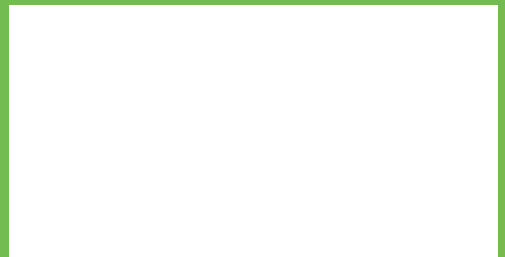
If you would prefer not to have trainees or team visitors present when we see you and your child, please tell us. This will not affect your child's care in any way.

## Clinical team

The clinical team comprises consultants, doctors and clinical nurse specialists supported by data management and administrative staff. The type of support you and your child may need is likely to vary throughout your child's illness, but could include:

- Expert clinical assessment and management of complex symptoms
- Support when faced with difficult decisions and treatment choices
- Receiving care in the place you and your child feel is the best place, which could be at home, in a children's hospice or in hospital
- Access to 24 hour telephone support
- Liaison between GOSH and local services to help coordinate your child's care. This could include liaison with your child's school or nursery.
- Providing information about local services, including children's hospices and support organisations
- Accessing bereavement support through GOSH or local services

For further information about the work of the palliative care team please call 020 7829 8678 Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.



## Psychosocial team

The psychosocial team comprises a family support officer, social worker and psychologist.

We understand that a child's illness or condition can affect the whole family in a variety of ways. It can be a particularly stressful time and the psychosocial team is available to offer practical and emotional support to you, your child and family. If you would like to have an informal discussion with the psychosocial team please call the Social Work and Psychology Department on 020 7829 8896 or alternatively speak with your GOSH consultant or nurse. Ask for a copy of our leaflet *Psychosocial team for Palliative Care*.

## Research team

The research team is interested in learning about your views and experiences. If you would like to know more about the research team and our current studies, please visit our website at [www.ucl.ac.uk/ich/ppp/louis-dundas-centre](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ich/ppp/louis-dundas-centre). If you are interested in taking part in a study please call the research team on 020 7905 2143.

## How we use your information

At GOSH, we aim to provide the highest quality of care for your child. To do this, we need to keep records about your child, their health, the care they have had in the past and our plans for the future. We may also need to share these records with other teams and organisations involved in your child's care.

Your child's information may also be used for some other purposes, such as to check the type and quality of care we provide and to ensure that we offer the best service to the greatest number of people.

We assume that you are happy for our staff to use your child's information in this way when you let us look after him or her.

If you would like to discuss further how we use your child's information, or would like to limit how it is used, please talk to a member of the clinical team. For more details about the use of patient information held by GOSH, please visit [www.gosh.nhs.uk/parents-and-visitors/coming-hospital/information-held-about-your-child](http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/parents-and-visitors/coming-hospital/information-held-about-your-child).

## Other sources of support and information

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (Pals) team at GOSH offers a free and confidential service which helps patients, parents and carers with any information, concerns, or problems that they have about their NHS care/service. Visit them in the main reception area at GOSH, call them on 020 7829 7862 or email them at [pals@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@gosh.nhs.uk).

Together for Short Lives offers information on support services available and campaigns to improve children's palliative care services. Call them on 0117 922 1556 or visit their website at [www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk](http://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk).

The Child Death Helpline is a helpline for anyone affected by the death of a child.

The telephone helpline is open every evening from 7pm to 10pm, Monday to Friday mornings between 10am and 1pm and Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 1pm to 4pm.

Call their helpline on 0800 282 986 from a landline or 0808 800 6019 from a mobile – all calls are free.

You can also visit their website at [www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk](http://www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk).

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[www.gosh.nhs.uk](http://www.gosh.nhs.uk)

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