

Psychosocial team for palliative care



Information for families

Great Ormond Street Hospital
for Children NHS Foundation Trust

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 and your family. We are here to help you to deal with any worries and concerns you may have.



The psychosocial team comprises a family support officer, social worker and psychologist. We are not medical doctors and do not prescribe medication or do any physical examinations. Our team is part of the wider Oncology Outreach and Palliative Care Team.

It may be that you only require input from one of us, or more depending on the nature of your concerns.

Some examples of the practical help that we can offer include:

- support and advice about the practical and financial challenges that you might be experiencing
- identifying local support
- assistance with charity applications and grants
- advocacy and liaison with other services, agencies and schools.
- benefits and housing advice

We also offer emotional support for you as parents, your unwell child and their brothers and sisters. This might be on a one to one basis or for everyone as a family.

Some examples of what we can help with include:

- dealing with upsetting news and uncertainty
- managing the physical and emotional feelings caused by the medical treatments and their effects
- managing stress
- coping with changes in friendships and other relationships
- finding ways to juggle illness and everyday life
- school difficulties
- answering questions asked by your child and others about their illness
- providing parents with support to deal with behavioural difficulties
- psychological approaches to pain management or managing anxiety about procedures
- bereavement support



The team will work with your family's individual needs and wishes and are able to meet you within the hospital setting as well as your home.

Of course, this service is optional. If you would like to have an informal discussion with the psychosocial team you are welcome to contact us directly on 020 7829 8896 or alternatively speak with your GOSH consultant or nurse

The Louis Dundas Centre

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

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Ref: 2013F1515

Compiled by the Palliative Care team

in collaboration with the Child and Family Information Group

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