

FACT SHEET:

Burn and Wound Care

Why Choose Blythedale?

Blythedale is a center of excellence in treating children with complex burns and wounds. Our specialized burn rehabilitation team is comprised of experts in pediatric rehabilitation medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry/psychology, and nursing. These specialists, as well as the largest hospital-based pediatric therapy service (physical, occupational, speech and respiratory) in New York State provide acute comprehensive inpatient burn rehabilitation and wound care to children who are admitted from regional tertiary care centers. The goal of the burn rehabilitation program is to obtain maximum autonomy and functionality while maintaining the optimal integrity of the burn grafts with scar control. The child's clinical team works collaboratively with parents and other caregivers to identify developmentally appropriate medical and therapeutic goals. This team is also committed to meeting the psychological and social challenges that accompany burn and wound treatment and recovery, including body image concerns.

Comprehensive rehabilitation, aggressive nutritional support, pain management, evaluation of needs by sophisticated pressure mapping for wounds, and the optimization of any necessary medical equipment are integral parts of the program. The interdisciplinary team continually re-assesses patient skin grafts and modifies strategies for scar management, wound surveillance, maintenance of functional range of motion and need for changes in splints and compression garments. Close monitoring of patient progress, as well as surveillance for potential barriers of excessive scar formation, deconditioning, and orthopedic and neurologic sequelae are monitored on a frequent basis for swift intervention. A focus on the important rehabilitative commitment needed in all phases of burn care treatment is stressed. Coordinated planning for discharge provides families with detailed information regarding follow-up care, equipment needs, specialized accommodations and support services available to ensure the continuity of care.



- Board-certified pediatricians 24/7, including full-time staff in rehabilitation medicine.
- Experienced nursing staff (70-80% R.N.) with training in monitoring of skin and nutritional needs, and wound care certified nurses.
- Largest hospital-based pediatric therapy department in New York State, with 75 full-time pediatric therapists (physical, occupational, speech pathology and feeding).
- Pain Management team.
- Full-time child life specialists provide emotional support, assistance with strategies for coping with pain and anxiety, and procedural preparation.
- On-site adaptive equipment clinic with specially trained seating and mobility specialists.
- Family Resource Center provides parents and caregivers opportunities to access computers and resource materials on medical diagnoses and treatments.
- On-site Prosthetic/Orthotic Clinic allows for comprehensive evaluation with our in-house interdisciplinary team of pediatric rehabilitation physicians, orthotists and therapists.
- School programming at the Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD, the Hospital's on-site K-12 public school district, to facilitate continued education during recovery.
- Unique Day Hospital program for patients who need intensive rehabilitation and/or medical care.

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The Blythedale Burn and Wound Care Team

**Ruth Alejandro, M.D.,
Attending Psychiatrist**

Dr. Alejandro completed an internship in Internal Medicine at New York Medical College, and a residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at New York Presbyterian Hospital/University of Columbia and Cornell (where she also served as Chief Resident).

**Kathy Silverman, D.O.,
Coordinating Physician**

Dr. Silverman is the Coordinating Physician of the Adolescent Unit at Blythedale Children's Hospital. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics, and completed a residency in Pediatrics and a fellowship in Adolescent Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center.

**Josephine Kuhl, M.D.,
Chief of Psychiatry**

Dr. Kuhl completed residencies in Adult Psychiatry at the State University of New York Downstate, and in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Dr. Kuhl is Board Certified in Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

**Judi Peacock, M.P.H., R.N., W.C.C.,
Chief Nursing Officer**

Ms. Peacock's career spans more than 30 years in nursing, with extensive pediatric and pediatric critical care expertise. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from Boston University and received her M.P.H. from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

**Linda Schendel, M.S., R.N., C.P.N.,
W.C.C.**

Ms. Schendel is Board Certified in Pediatric Nursing and Wound Care. At Blythedale, where she has worked for the last 23 years, she has taken a lead role in helping the Hospital maintain its exceptional outcomes in reducing pressure ulcers.

**Julie Knitter, O.T.R.,
Director of Occupational Therapy**

Ms. Knitter's occupational therapy career spans more than 25 years, exclusively in pediatrics with extensive clinical expertise in progression of feeding skills for children with complex medical and/or developmental conditions.

**Lisa Levinson, C.C.L.S.,
Child Life Coordinator**

Ms. Levinson started the Child Life Program at Blythedale and has been the program's coordinator since 2001. Ms. Levinson worked as a Child Development Specialist at Blythedale for a decade before her transition to Child Life. She completed her Child Life Internship and Fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital and Cohen Children's Medical Center, respectively. She has been a member of Blythedale's Pain and Palliative Care Team since its inception in 1996.

On-Site Services and Support Areas:

- Pediatric Medicine
- Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
- Child Psychiatry and Psychology
- Pain Management
- Child Life
- Pediatric Nursing
- Pediatric Occupational Therapy
- Pediatric Physical Therapy

Additional Specialty Support Areas Available:

- Child Neurology
- Pediatric Orthopaedics
- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Pediatric Respiratory Therapy
- Speech Pathology and Feeding Therapy
- Additional consultative specialists as needed

Clinical Support Services

- Audiology
- Social Work/Case Management
- Patient Advocacy
- Assistive Technology
- On-site Equipment Clinic



Contacts:

For Referrals or Feedback on Referred Burn and Wound Care Patients:

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Susan Murray, L.C.S.W.,
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Outcomes Data for Burn and Wound Care Patients:

Blythedale recorded zero blood stream infections last year, and was presented with the NACHRI C.A.R.E. award as a result of the Hospital's exemplary efforts to reduce central line infection rates. In addition, 93% of those who completed a Press Ganey survey indicated they would recommend Blythedale to others.

	Benchmark	Total 2010	*YTD 2011
Blood Stream Infections	<2.5 per 1000 Line Days	0 per 1000 Line Days	1.0 per 1000 Line Days

*THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2011