

# FACT SHEET:

## Childhood Cancers (Rehabilitation)

### Why Choose Blythedale?

At Blythedale Children's Hospital, a 24-hour staff of pediatric specialists support the medical and rehabilitative recovery of children with all types of cancer. Blythedale's pediatricians, physiatrists, psychiatrists, and psychologists, as well as nurses, nutritionists, and physical, occupational, speech, and feeding therapists, comprise the interdisciplinary team essential to meet the complex needs of children who have been treated for cancer. In addition, each patient is assigned their own social worker who works closely with the family to address current and anticipated needs. A customized therapeutic regimen enables patients to regain their strength and function, while undergoing or recovering from surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy. We recognize the vital importance of an ongoing relationship with the patient's referring medical team, and we participate in regular phone conferences to assess progress. Blythedale is the only specialty children's hospital in New York State with the capability of providing the highest level of medical care and rehabilitation for children with complex medical needs. Blythedale is well-known for superior outcomes and the ability to help patients achieve their maximum potential and reach their treatment objectives. The goal is to help all of our young patients return to their families, schools and communities.



- State-of-the-art medical technology and monitoring equipment, combined with rigorous infection control protocols.
- Three positive pressure isolation rooms enable us to care for children with immunosuppression.
- Board-certified pediatricians 24/7 and nursing staff (70-80% R.N.) experienced in the administration of chemotherapy.
- Full-time specialists in psychiatry and psychology to address emotional, developmental and adjustment needs and foster self-esteem.
- Registered dietitian provides case-specific, individualized nutritional plan for every patient upon admission, to maximize caloric intake and consider specific metabolic needs.
- 24/7 pulmonary and respiratory support (18 full-time pediatric respiratory therapists).
- Largest hospital-based pediatric therapy department in New York State, with 75 full-time pediatric therapists (physical, occupational, speech pathology and feeding).
- Full-time child life specialists provide emotional support, assistance with strategies for coping with pain and anxiety, and procedural preparation.
- Comprehensive discharge planning services.
- TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition) management, weaning and training expertise, including feeding via naso-gastric, gastrostomy, and jejunostomy tubes.
- Adaptive equipment clinic on-site, with expertise in prosthetics.
- Six full-time pharmacists, including a Board Certified Clinical Pharmacist, able to compound therapeutic agents on-site.
- 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, but are able to be at home at night.

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### The Blythedale Team

**Joelle Mast, Ph.D., M.D.,  
Chief Medical Officer and Director of  
the Pain and Palliative Care Team**

Dr. Mast is a pediatric neurologist with a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology. She completed residencies in Pediatrics and Neurology at The New York Hospital – Cornell Medical Center. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics, Hospice & Palliative Care, Child Neurology and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities.

**Laura J. Mirkinson, M.D., F.A.A.P.,  
Chief of Pediatrics**

Dr. Mirkinson has been the Chief of Pediatrics at Blythedale since 2007. She previously served at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and as a Pediatric Hospitalist at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, MD. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics. Dr. Mirkinson supervises a team of 10 Board Certified pediatricians with many years of experience treating children with complex medical needs.

**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 Adult Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

**Jay E. Selman, M.D.,  
Chief of Neurology**

Dr. Selman has been the Chief of Neurology at Blythedale since 2002. He completed both his Pediatric and Neurology residencies at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. He is Board Certified in Child Neurology, Pediatrics, Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, and Sleep Medicine.

**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.

**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 Serving Patients with Cancer:

- Pediatric Medicine
- Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
- Child Neurology
- Child Psychiatry and Psychology
- Pediatric Nursing
- Pediatric Nutrition
- Pain Management
- Child Life
- Pediatric Occupational Therapy
- Pediatric Physical Therapy
- Pediatric Respiratory Therapy
- Speech Pathology and Feeding Therapy

### Additional Specialty Support Areas Available:

- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Pediatric Orthopaedics
- Pediatric Ophthalmology
- Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology (ENT)
- Additional consultative specialists as needed

### Clinical Support Services

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



### Contacts:

#### For Referrals or Feedback on Referred Patients:

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Susan Murray, L.C.S.W.,  
Director of Social Work  
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Fax: 914-347-5544

### Outcomes Data for Childhood Cancer 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.

	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