

# FACT SHEET:

## Pre- and Post-Organ Transplant Services

### Why Choose Blythedale?

At Blythedale Children's Hospital, a 24-hour staff of pediatric specialists supports infants, children and adolescents prior to and following complicated transplant procedures (including heart, liver, kidney and multi-organ). These patients require the high level attention of a multidisciplinary team of pediatricians, physiatrists, nurses, nutritionists, and physical/occupational/speech/feeding therapists familiar with the problems inherent in transplantation. 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 meet their treatment objectives. The goal is to help all of our young patients return to their families and communities.



- State-of-the-art medical technology and monitoring equipment, combined with rigorous infection control protocols, enable Blythedale to accept higher acuity immunosuppressed patients in all age groups.
- Blythedale's "positive pressure" isolation rooms allow us to care for children with compromised immune systems.
- Expertly trained staff are knowledgeable in pre- and post-transplant care, and recognize the vital role parents/caregivers play as our partners in care on the road home.

- Regular, collaborative and comprehensive communication with transplant teams from referring institutions, including physicians and transplant coordinators.
- Board Certified Pediatricians 24/7 and experienced nursing staff (70-80% R.N.).
- Six full-time registered pharmacists, including a Board Certified Clinical Pharmacist.
- TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition) expertise.
- Excellence in caregiver education and comprehensive discharge planning services.
- On-site public school district (the only one of its kind in New York).

### On-Site Services and Support Areas Serving Patients with Pre- and Post-Transplant Needs:

- Pediatric Medicine
- Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Child Psychiatry and Psychology
- Child Neurology
- Pediatric Nursing
- Pediatric Specialty-trained Pharmacists
- Pediatric Nutrition
- Pediatric Speech and Feeding Therapy
- Pediatric Physical Therapy
- Pediatric Occupational Therapy
- Pain Management

### Additional Specialty Support Areas Available for Patients with Pre- and Post-Transplant Needs:

- Pediatric Ophthalmology
- Pediatric Otolaryngology
- Pediatric Infectious Disease
- Pediatric Cardiology
- Additional consultative specialists as needed

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### The Blythedale Pre- and Post-Organ Transplant Program

**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, Maryland. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics. Dr. Mirkinson is supported by a team of 10 Board Certified pediatricians experienced in the care of patients with complex needs presented by organ transplants.

**Lauren Brandel, R.D.,  
Clinical Nutrition Manager**

Ms. Brandel is a registered dietitian. She earned her bachelor's of science from the University of Rhode Island and completed her dietetic nutrition internship at State University of New York at Stony Brook. She also received specialized training in pediatric nutrition at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. She has been a specialized pediatric dietitian for her entire 12-year career.

**Clinical Support Services**

- Audiology
- Social Work/Case Management
- Lab Services
- Radiology
- Child Life Services
- Adaptive Equipment Clinic
- Patient Advocacy

**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.

### Outcomes Data for Pre- and Post-Transplant Patients:

In 2010, 90% of the patients admitted for post-transplant care were discharged home. In addition, 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



### Contacts:

**For Referrals or Feedback on Referred Pre- and Post-Organ Transplant Patients:**

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