

FACT SHEET:

Ventilator Weaning

Why Choose Blythedale?

Blythedale's Ventilator Weaning Program is widely recognized as a national center of excellence due to the Hospital's extraordinary success in weaning fragile infants and children from the technology previously needed to sustain their lives. A multidisciplinary team, led by a pediatric pulmonologist, provides comprehensive care, including medical management, respiratory, physical and occupational therapy, nutrition and feeding, sensory stimulation, and assessment of development. Each patient is assigned their own social worker who works closely with the family to address current and anticipated needs.

The goals of the program are weaning from mechanical ventilation or transition to a portable ventilator. In addition, caregivers are taught home ventilation and tracheostomy care, as well as other aspects of respiratory support. Caregiver training is one of the hallmarks of Blythedale's care.

Blythedale is the only specialty children's hospital in New York State that offers a comprehensive pediatric ventilator weaning program. Blythedale is well-known for superior outcomes and the ability to help patients achieve their maximum potential and meet their treatment objectives. Our goal is to help all of our young patients return to their families and communities.



- Board Certified Pediatricians 24/7 and experienced nursing staff (70-80% R.N.).
- 24/7 pulmonary and respiratory support (18 full-time pediatric respiratory therapists).
- State-of-the-art medical technology, monitoring equipment, and new Maquet Servo-i ventilators enable staff to respond to a patient's rapidly changing condition.
- Largest hospital-based pediatric therapy department in New York State, with 75 full-time pediatric therapists (physical, occupational, and speech pathology). In addition, a therapeutic feeder (specially trained speech or occupational therapist) is assigned to each patient as needed.
- 36% of all children are admitted for ventilator weaning and respiratory care.
- CPAP and BiPAP management and weaning.
- Extensive experience in enteral feeding, weaning infants and children from supplemental tube feeding (nasogastric, gastrostomy, and jejunostomy).
- Full-time child neurology and pediatric rehabilitation coverage.
- Adaptive equipment clinic on-site facilitates transition to adaptive wheelchairs that accommodate ventilators, enabling greater independence for patient and family.
- Six full-time registered pharmacists, including a Board Certified Clinical Pharmacist.
- Frequent and comprehensive communication with referring institutions and physicians.
- Excellence in caregiver education and comprehensive discharge planning services, including a full-time discharge planning nurse to coordinate equipment needs and home care. In addition, 24-hour on-site solo practices, and pre-discharge home visits prepare caregivers for caring for their child at home.

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The Blythedale Ventilator Weaning Team

**Milicent A. Mitchell, M.D.,
Chief of Pulmonology**

Dr. Mitchell is the Coordinating Physician of our Infant & Toddler Unit at Blythedale Children's Hospital. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics and completed a residency in pediatrics and a pulmonary fellowship at the State University of New York Health Services Center/Kings County Hospital in New York.

**Agnes Banquet, M.D.,
Attending Pulmonologist**

Dr. Banquet is Board Certified in Pediatrics, and completed a pulmonary fellowship at NY Medical College/Westchester Medical Center.

**Dawn VanSickle, B.S., R.R.T-NPS,
Director of Respiratory Care**

Ms. VanSickle's entire career has been in pediatrics, with specialization in newborn respiratory therapy. She has worked in both NICU and PICU settings, with the latest technologically advanced equipment for patient care. She earned her bachelor's degree in health service management from SUNY New York.

**Kimberly Everett, R.N., B.S., C.P.N.,
Infant & Toddler Unit Nursing Director**

Ms. Everett has worked in pediatric-centered care for the last 28 years, including PICU, NICU, and pediatric home care. She received her bachelor's degree from Albright College.

Katie Walsh, L.C.S.W.

Ms. Walsh received her M.S.W. from Hunter College School of Social Work and has been working on the Infant & Toddler Unit at Blythedale Children's Hospital since 2001. She works with families to address their full spectrum of needs, and serves as a liaison between families and hospital staff while helping them adjust to hospitalization and discharge planning.

On-Site Services and Support Areas Serving Ventilator Weaning Patients:

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

Additional Specialty Support Areas Available:

- Pediatric Ophthalmology
- Pediatric Otolaryngology
- Additional consultative specialists as needed

Clinical Support Services

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

Outcomes Data for Ventilator Weaning Patients:

Indicator	Measure	Published Average	Total 2010	*YTD 2011	Long-Term Outcome after 6 years
Program Outcomes Ventilator	% of Patients Admitted for Weaning	46 - 60%	95%	80%	97% of our Patients Remained Ventilator Free

*THROUGH JUNE 2011



Contacts:

For Referrals or Feedback on Referred Ventilator Weaning Patients:

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