FACT SHEET: Neuromuscular and Genetic Disorders

Why Choose Blythedale?

Blythedale has a long tradition of providing comprehensive medical care to children with neuromuscular disorders, including muscular dystrophy and other myopathies, neuropahties, motor neuron diseases and neuromuscular junction disorders, as well as complex genetic disorders. Widely recognized as a national leader in treating children with rare conditions, Blythedale is a center of clinical excellence, innovation and compassionate care. Our interdisciplinary team includes distinguished experts in neurology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, orthopaedics, psychiatry/psychology, pulmonology, genetics, and other medical specialties. Blythedale also has the largest and most experienced pediatric therapy department in New York State. The goal is to help our patients maximize their functional abilities through comprehensive medical care and rehabilitation, utilizing state-of-the-art technology, environmental modifications and adaptive equipment.

Following the intake evaluation, the child’s clinical team will work collaboratively to identify developmentally important goals to improve mobility, foster independence in daily activities and self-care, and address the highly specific medical needs of children with rare and complex conditions. Coordinated discharge planning provides families with detailed information regarding follow-up care, equipment needs, and support services. Well-known for superior outcomes and the ability to help patients achieve their maximum potential, Blythedale aims to help all of our young patients return to their families, schools and communities.

- Board-certified pediatricians 24/7, including full-time medical specialists in pediatric neurology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and psychiatry.
- Experienced nursing staff (100% R.N.) with training in monitoring of skin and nutritional needs, spasticity, and pain management.
- Largest hospital-based pediatric therapy department in New York State, with 70 full-time pediatric therapists (physical, occupational, speech pathology, and feeding).
- 24/7 pulmonary and respiratory support (14 full-time pediatric respiratory therapists).
- Family Resource Center provides parents and caregivers opportunities to access computers and resource materials on support services for children with rare disorders.
- On-site therapy pool for aquatic therapy sessions to improve range of motion, coordination, strengthening and conditioning.
- Adaptive equipment clinic on-site, for transition from stretcher to adaptive wheelchair that accommodates ventilator and/or assistive technology, and specially trained seating and mobility specialists.
- State-of-the-art medical technology and monitoring equipment, including pressure-mapping, environmental control units (ECUs), gait analysis, and partial body weight support system to improve gait.
- Child Life specialists, trained in helping patients cope with medical issues which are typically seen in degenerative illnesses.
- On-site Prosthetic/Orthotic Clinic offers comprehensive evaluation and prescription for a broad variety of devices.
- School programming at the Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD, the Hospital’s on-site K-12 public school district, to facilitate continued education during rehabilitation.
- Unique Day Hospital program for patients who need intensive rehabilitation and/or medical care.

www.blythedale.org
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The Blythedale Neuromuscular and Genetic Disorders Team

Heakyung Kim, M.D.,
Chief of Pediatric Physiatry
Dr. Kim received her medical degree from Ewha Woman's University, College of Medicine in Seoul, Korea. She completed her residency and fellowship in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Yonsei University of Medicine. She completed a research fellowship and the combined residency program in Pediatrics and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Medicine at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation/University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Medical School. She is Board Certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, including subspecialty of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine.

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

Milicent A. Mitchell, M.D.,
Chief of Pulmonology
Dr. Mitchell is the Coordinating Physician of our Infant 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.

Arleen Ott, R.N., B.S.N., C.P.N., W.C.C.
Infant & Toddler Unit Nursing Director
Ms. Ott has spent her entire 22-year nursing career in pediatrics. Her experience ranges from general pediatrics to pediatric rehabilitation. Arleen earned her BSN from Thomas Edison State College. In addition, she holds a BS in Business Administration. She is a Certified Pediatric Nurse and a Certified Wound Care Nurse.

On-Site Services and Support Areas:
• Pediatric Medicine
• Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
• Child Neurology
• Child Psychiatry and Psychology
• Pediatric Orthopaedics
• Pediatric Pulmonology
• Pediatric Genetics
• Pain Management
• Pediatric Nursing
• Pediatric Physical, Occupational, and Respiratory Therapy
• Speech Pathology, and Feeding Therapy

Additional Specialty Support Areas Available:
• Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology (ENT)
• Pediatric Cardiology
• Additional consultative specialists as needed

Clinical Support Services
• Audiology
• Social Work/Case Management
• On-site Equipment Clinic
• Assistive Technology
• Child Life
• Radiology
• Patient Advocacy
• Lab Services

Contacts:
For Referrals or Feedback on Referred Patients:
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