FACT SHEET:
High Tech Nutritional Support and Feeding Therapy

Why Choose Blythedale?

At Blythedale Children’s Hospital, evaluation and treatment of acquired and congenital feeding disorders in infants, children and adolescents are addressed by a team of pediatric specialists. This team, comprised of a pediatrician, speech and occupational therapist, registered dietitian, psychologist, nurses, neurologists, and other clinical specialists, works collaboratively with each child and family. Blythedale is the only specialty children’s hospital in New York State with the capability of combining these areas of expertise in a multidisciplinary team.

Children admitted to Blythedale for nutritional support and feeding therapy have wide-ranging medical problems, including genetic and/or developmental disorders, complications due to premature birth, short-gut syndrome, brain injury, cerebral palsy, oral-motor dysfunction, post-surgical, and seizure disorders. Blythedale’s multidisciplinary approach not only incorporates each child’s complex medical and developmental needs, but also addresses behavioral and oral-motor feeding issues, in order to customize a nutritional plan to maximize growth and development.

Well-known for its superior outcomes and the ability to help patients achieve their maximum potential and meet their treatment objectives, Blythedale’s approach to treating children with complex medical problems is widely recognized as a national model of excellence.

- Board Certified Pediatricians 24/7 and experienced nursing staff (100% R.N.).
- Largest hospital-based pediatric therapy department in New York State, with 70 full-time pediatric therapists.
- Therapeutic feeders (49 specially trained speech and occupational therapists) are assigned to each patient, based on the child’s individual needs and the therapist’s unique area of expertise.
- Registered dietitian provides case specific, individualized nutritional plan for every patient upon admission.
- TPN (Total Parenteral Nutrition) management, weaning and training expertise.
- Extensive experience in enteral feeding, weaning infants and children from supplemental tube feeding (naso-gastric, gastrostomy, and jejunostomy), and decreasing dependence on tube feedings.
- 24/7 pulmonary and respiratory support for ventilator dependent children with immature feeding mechanisms.
- Specialized services for children who have behavioral issues which interfere with diet advancement.
- 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.
- On-site public school district (the only one of its kind in New York).

(over)
FACT SHEET:
High Tech Nutritional Support and Feeding Therapy

The Blythedale High Tech Nutritional Support and Feeding Therapy 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.

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.

Rita Erbaum Kotorac, CCC/SLP,
Director of Speech Pathology and Audiology
Ms. Erbaum Kotorac’s career spans more than 30 years in Speech-Language Pathology. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York at Albany, and master’s degree from New York University. She has extensive experience in the field of pediatrics, with ongoing specialized training in feeding therapy.

Julie Knitter, OTR,
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. She holds a degree in occupational therapy from the University of Wisconsin.

Outcomes Data for High The Nutritional Support and Feeding Therapy Patients:
The departments of Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy utilized the Infant Feeding Outcome Measure as a means of measuring the feeding outcome for infants transitioning from tube to oral feedings. In the past year, 70% of children making progress were successfully transitioned from enteral (tube) feedings to oral intake. 57% of those children achieved this goal in less than one month.

On-Site Services and Support Areas Serving Patients with Feeding Therapy Needs:
• Pediatric Medicine
• Pediatric Nursing
• Pediatric Nutrition
• Pediatric Pulmonology
• Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
• Child Neurology
• Child Psychiatry and Psychology
• Pediatric Speech Pathology providing therapeutic feeding, evaluations and interventions
• Pediatric Occupational Therapy
• Pharmacy

Additional Specialty Support Areas Available:
• Pediatric Otolaryngology
• Additional consultative specialists as needed

Clinical Support Services
• Audiology
• Radiology
• Lab Services
• Social Work/Case Management
• Child Life Services
• Patient Advocacy

Contacts:
For Referrals or Feedback on Referred High Tech Nutritional Support and Feeding Therapy Patients:
Theresa King, R.N.,
Director of Clinical Outreach
theresak@blythedale.org
914-831-2431
Pager: 877-325-6394
Fax: 866-362-4721

Susan Murray, L.C.S.W.,
Director of Social Work and Care Coordination Services
susangm@blythedale.org
914-831-2443
Fax: 866-362-4721