

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER SURVIVORSHIP CLINIC



Caring for children with cancer doesn't end after treatment. Our patients have lives outside of the hospital, and we provide services they need to transition back to life and to thrive in school, work and play. Survivors of childhood cancer and their families often have specialized needs and concerns, and Children's Hospital & Medical Center's Survivorship Clinic has been established to address them.

During the past 20 years, pediatric oncologists have made great strides in improving the overall cure rate of children with cancer. Nearly 80% of children diagnosed with cancer now survive five years or more – a big improvement from 30 years ago. While this progress is encouraging, there are now more than 320,000 childhood cancer survivors in the United States who are at risk of late effects from the disease or its treatment. These individuals face significant risks to their health and well-being, which they must deal with for the remainder of their lives.

Children's new Survivorship Clinic will see patients of any cancer diagnosis, two years after the completion of therapy. During annual visits, our specialists will thoroughly assess the child's overall health and monitor for potential future impacts. Our

multidisciplinary team includes an oncologist, cardiologist and physical therapist to care for the child's physical needs, while a dedicated social worker and psychologist provide comforting guidance and emotional support. Together, they watch for developmental and behavioral changes and help kids cope with social issues such as transitioning back to school. The clinic also provides basic education about diagnosis, treatment, potential risks and maintaining and maximizing good health in regard to diet, exercise, environmental exposure and stress.

After the clinic visit, the team will summarize recommendations in the "Passport of Care" national database, and create a "roadmap" for the patient and their primary care doctor to use. It may include recommended tests and screenings based on the patient's particular cancer diagnosis and treatment regimen. Children's survivorship team will help empower our young cancer survivors to take charge of their health, so they can enjoy a higher quality of life.

In addition, it will be important for Children's medical team, our patients and their families to have



opportunities to learn more about survivorship best practices and connect with each other. Finding funding for a local conference will aid in the continuing education of our medical professionals, survivors and their families. We also hope to offer special events for our survivors and their families to provide further support and encouragement.

Children's believes the new Survivorship Clinic will truly be a priceless gift to our region, our community and our young patients and their families. On their behalf, we ask that you consider partnering with us to initiate and sustain this life-changing project. Your support will give hope for the future.

SURVIVORSHIP CLINIC FACTS

- Staff will include an oncologist, cardiologist, full-time nursing case manager, social worker, physical therapist and behavioral health professionals.
- The Clinic is available to children, adolescents and young adults up to age 21 who were treated for childhood cancer and who have been off therapy for at least two years.