

The ROYAL MARSDEN

NHS Foundation Trust

The role of the Children and Young People's Oncology Outreach and Symptom Care Nurse Specialists (CYPOONS)

**Information for parents, carers
and patients**



NHS

Introduction

The Children and Young People's Oncology Outreach and Symptom Care Nurse Specialists are known as CYPOONS. We are a small team of children's nurses with cancer qualifications and specialist symptom care knowledge and skills. We are employed by, and based at The Royal Marsden, Sutton.

We work across the South Thames Region. Once referred to our team by the treating oncologist, you will have access to named nurses on the team.

Within our role we:

- Work together with children and young people under 19 years of age, their families and carers by offering symptom support and treatment advice throughout their cancer journey
- Work alongside community services, for example, Community Children's Nurses (CCN), General Practitioners, Health Visitors, School Nurses and other healthcare professionals
- Work alongside psychosocial, educational and voluntary sector colleagues to provide a multi-professional team approach to your child's care
- Help improve quality of life, particularly in relation to symptoms experienced during and after cancer therapies
- Provide specialist symptom care advice and support for professionals involved in caring for the child with advanced cancer.

First contact

Contact will be made with you at the request of the medical and nursing teams and/or from an allied healthcare professional while your child is a patient under the care of The Royal Marsden. We can discuss any questions you may have about your child's symptoms. The CYPOONS may either be asked to review your child's symptoms at a time you are at The Royal Marsden or at the next planned appointment or offer a home visit as appropriate.

Home visits are usually carried out jointly with a CCN from your local service.

School, nursery or college visit

Children and their families may feel anxious about returning to nursery, school or college. Children are encouraged to return to education as soon as treatment allows and they feel well enough to attend. Links are established with your child's school by telephone, by The Royal Marsden based teachers and/or your child's named key worker. The CYPOONS or CCN can visit educational settings to offer advice and provide written information for teachers and school nurses.

Complex symptom care

The CYPOONS work alongside a Consultant Paediatrician to provide specialist advice for the best possible control of symptoms. These symptoms may include pain, nausea and vomiting, anxiety and constipation that occur during your child's planned treatment and beyond. The CYPOONS offers a symptom care service for those with advanced cancer, including written care plans and symptom advice. We work alongside our nursing, medical and psychosocial care colleagues at The Royal Marsden and locally to achieve good symptom control.

Other support

Experiencing pain and other symptoms can have a significant impact on a person's emotional wellbeing. Complex and sometimes conflicting emotions can also be experienced by close family members who are involved in supporting a child or sibling undergoing treatment. Making time to look after yourself, both mentally and physically is vital in order to manage the experience of cancer care as constructively as possible.

As part of the team we have a family support social worker who is available to all families referred to the team. The family support social worker is available to discuss help and support required for any member of the family, and can work alongside the social workers in Young Lives vs Cancer and support agencies in the community to ensure that families receive the help they need at such a difficult and emotionally demanding time.

Summary

The CYPOONS provide:

- Information, treatment, education and symptom care relating to cancer in children and young people
- Advice and support for the child or young person and their families throughout the treatment journey
- Advice and support for health and allied healthcare professionals, social care and teacher colleagues
- Formal education and teaching for our multi-professional colleagues
- Management of complex symptom care needs.

Contact details

The CYPOONS team is available Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm:

Tel: **020 8661 3625**

Email: patch.team@nhs.net

Notes and questions

References

This booklet is evidence based wherever the appropriate evidence is available.

Details of the references used in writing this booklet are available on request from:

The Royal Marsden Help Centre

Telephone: Chelsea 020 7811 8438 / 020 7808 2083

Sutton 020 8661 3759 / 3951

Email: patientcentre@rmh.nhs.uk

No conflicts of interest were declared in the production of this booklet.

Should you require information in an alternative format, please contact The Royal Marsden Help Centre.

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