

*The* ROYAL MARSDEN

NHS Foundation Trust

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

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**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 and you and your family will have access to a named CYPOONS following your child's initial diagnosis.

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 health care 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 well-being. 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 a team we know it can sometimes be difficult to ask for professional support with the 'emotional pain' that you may be experiencing,

consequently, when referred to the CYPOONS service, a member of the psychology service will routinely make contact with you and your family to discuss help and support they may be able to offer. This service is in addition to the support you may already access from your named CLIC Sargent social worker.

## 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 health care professionals, social care and teacher colleagues
- Formal education and teaching for our multi-professional colleagues
- Management of complex symptom care needs.

## Your named CYPOONS is:

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

**Tel: 020 8661 3625**

**Email: [patch.team@nhs.net](mailto:patch.team@nhs.net)**

### References

This booklet is evidence based wherever the appropriate evidence is available, and represents an accumulation of expert opinion and professional interpretation.

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

The Royal Marsden Help Centre

Freephone: 0800 783 7176

Email: [patientcentre@rmh.nhs.uk](mailto: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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