

APRIL 2015

Keep your child, personal items safe

Guest Services staff members want to remind all patient families about two important concerns – using only clean wagons and protecting your personal items.

Clean wagons

The red wagons are a helpful way for young children to move from one appointment to the next, but re-using a wagon after another patient could expose your child to germs that cause infection. Sanitary wipes will not work well enough to clean these wagons.

The Environmental Services staff professionally cleans the wagons every night. After that, the wagons are parked near Patient Services on the

plaza level of the Patient Care Center (PCC), as well as in the lobbies of the PCC and the Chili's Care Center. You will know a wagon is clean if it has a white piece of tape across it with the words "READY TO ROLL" printed in green, so choose one of those.

Also, linens that might be sitting around the hospital in wagons, wheelchairs or other places should be considered dirty. After sheets and blankets are used by one patient, they need to be cleaned even if they do not look dirty.

If you have questions about the St. Jude wagons, please talk to the Guest Services representative at either the Patient Care Center or

Chili's Care Center lobby desk or ask a Patient Services staff member.

Personal items

Before bringing any personal item to the hospital, please mark it with your name and phone number or the patient's full name. Use a Sharpie® pen or write the information on a piece of tape and place it on the item. Then, the item can be returned to you if it is lost. Consider leaving valuables and important paperwork in your St. Jude housing room. Tri Delta Place offers a small safe in every room. When staying in Target House or Ronald McDonald House, your possessions will be safe as long as you keep your front door locked.

It is important for all St. Jude patient families to keep their personal belongings secure. Please do not leave your personal items (laptops, purses, luggage, etc.) unattended in common areas of the hospital or housing facilities. If you do lose a personal item while in the hospital, check with Patient Services on the PCC plaza level and with Security.

We encourage you to call the St. Jude Security staff if you think your possessions have been lost or stolen. To reach Security from a hospital phone, dial 4444. If using a cell phone, call 901-595-4444.

Help honor extraordinary nurses

St. Jude patient families understand how important it is to have outstanding nurses to care for their children. Since March 2009, St. Jude has been taking part in The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses program sponsored by the DAISY Foundation. DAISY Award honorees excel at teamwork and critical thinking skills and go the extra mile in delivering

the best in patient care. They

are excellent patient family educators and have

demonstrated an unwavering caring attitude in all situations. They also have an extraordinary professional connection with patients and families as seen in the way they offer emotional support and trust.

DAISY stands for **diseases attacking the immune system**. The DAISY Foundation was formed in 1999 by the family of J. Patrick Barnes, who died of an immune disorder at 33. His family had experienced the skills and compassionate care of many nurses, and they started the DAISY Award program as a way of saying thank

you. Today, more than 1,800 health care facilities in all 50 states and 14 other countries are committed to honoring nurses with The DAISY Award.

Four outstanding St. Jude nurses were honored with The DAISY Award in February. They are: **Sommer Brannan** (Solid Tumor-Inpatient), **Ron Hardin** (Ambulatory Care Unit-Medicine Room), **Shelley Jones** (ICU-Inpatient) and **Kari Lahmon** (Surgical Services-Sedation).

Any nurse can be nominated by patients, patient family members, employees, volunteers and visitors. If you would like to nominate a nurse for The DAISY Award, the next deadline is May 1. You may pick up a nomination form from any inpatient unit, your child's clinic waiting area, the Linda R. Hajar Family Resource Center (Patient Care Center second floor), the Blood Donor Center and Chili's Care Center lobby desk. You may also nominate a nurse online at www.stjude.org/daisyaward. The nomination form is located under "Related Topics."

The next DAISY Award ceremony at St. Jude will take place Thursday, June 25, at 2 p.m. outside the Kay Kafe. If you have questions about the program or about nominating a nurse, email Nicole Wright at nicole.wright@stjude.org.

Please avoid wearing strong scents

For patients in treatment, perfumes, aftershaves and scented lotions can smell intensely strong. For many patients, these smells can increase their feelings of nausea (feeling sick to their stomachs). Please avoid wearing perfume, aftershave or scented lotion when you are in the hospital. If someone is wearing a strong scent that is bothering your child, please talk to a staff member about it.





Talking about Medicines

Storing your medicines the right way

By Shane Cross, PharmD, Pharmaceutical Services

We've all heard how important it is to take medicines correctly, but their proper storage can be just as crucial. Medicines can lose their strength and will not work as well if they are exposed to too much moisture, heat or sunlight. So be sure to store them in a cool, dry place away from sunlight. Contrary to popular belief, bathroom medicine cabinets are not good places to store medicines. Bathrooms are too warm and humid.

Some other tips for storing medicines:

- Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.
- Store medicines in child-proof containers.
- If a medicine needs to be kept cold, store it on the top shelf of the refrigerator, out of sight from children.
- Check the expiration dates often, and discard anything that is out of date.

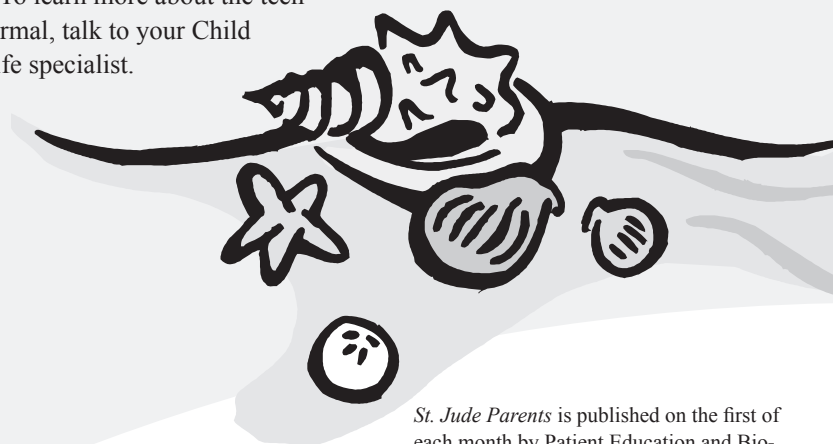
If you have questions about the proper storage of medicines, please ask your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Under the Sea Teen Formal April 16

The St. Jude Child Life Department is excited to host a night Under the Sea Teen Formal Thursday, April 16. Formal invitations have already been mailed to our active patients, ages 15 to 19. The mailings included details about tux fest, dress fest, and hair/makeup appointments and include all consent forms. Patients and guests younger than 18 must turn in signed consent forms to attend.

This year the formal is just for invited patients and one guest each. The patient's guest can be a sibling, friend or date. To attend, all patients and guests must be between the ages of 15 and 19 and be currently enrolled in school. The event will include a nationally known DJ, world-class entertainment, amazing food, formal pictures, take-home gifts, limo rides and door prizes.

To learn more about the teen formal, talk to your Child Life specialist.



**St. Jude Children's
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For the latest details on upcoming events, see the bulletin board in the Patient Care Center lobby near Patient Registration.

St. Jude Parents is published on the first of each month by Patient Education and Bio-medical Communications. Your questions and comments are important to us. **We want to print advice and tips from St. Jude parents to other St. Jude parents.**

To share your ideas or to receive this newsletter by email, please call or email Alicia Huettel, RN, MSN, at 901-595-5453 (parents_newsletter@stjude.org) or Lois Young (lois.young@stjude.org). To subscribe to an online version of this newsletter, visit www.stjude.org/parents-newsletter.

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