

FEBRUARY 2015

Your input needed for bedside report

You are always encouraged to take an active role in your child's care. If you have questions, concerns, or important information that you feel would help the staff take better care of your child, please speak to your child's doctor or nurse. One way you can be an active member of your child's care team is by taking part in bedside report, which occurs at each nursing shift change on the inpatient unit.

When nurses change shifts, usually 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., they come together and share detailed information with each other about each patient's condition and needs. The nurse will tell you when bedside report will occur and ask you if you would like to take part. You are encouraged, but not required to be involved.

Please know that your input into

your child's care is welcomed and highly valued by the staff, because no one knows your child like you do. On the Leukemia Unit, the staff will provide you with a newly created green card that you can use to let the staff know if you plan to take part in bedside report for each shift. They are testing to see if this card will be helpful for the bedside report process.

Bedside report steps

- The outgoing nurse will introduce the incoming nurse for the next shift.
- The incoming nurse will check your child's armband and verify the name, age, and medical record number.
- The outgoing nurse will share with the incoming nurse information about your child's care up to this

point including medicines to be given, scheduled tests and important lab results.

- If you have questions or concerns or if you would like to add other important information related to your child's care during this time, you are encouraged to do so.
- The nurses will assess your child, looking at any intravenous (IV) or central lines, drains or other devices related to care. Also at this time, the nurses will assess your child's pain level and do a patient safety check.
- If you do not have questions or comments at that time then both nurses will thank you for taking part. The outgoing nurse will say goodbye, and the incoming nurse will tell you when he or she will return to check your child's vital signs and perform the next nursing assessment.

The staff hopes you will take part in this process to help them better understand your child and what extra care might be needed.

Killing germs: Hand sanitizer versus soap and water cleaning

Germs are harmful and can lead to infections and longer hospital stays. Cleaning your hands helps to remove these harmful germs.

Sometimes it is confusing for patients and families to know when they should use soap and water, alcohol-based hand sanitizer or both to clean hands. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that staff, patients and families clean their hands at these times:

- Beginning of your day
- When hands are visibly soiled (soap and water)
- Right before and after contact with a patient
 - When leaving an isolation area
 - Before wearing gloves and after removing gloves
 - After using the restroom (soap and water)

- After blowing or wiping nose
- Before handling or preparing food
- Before eating
- Before entering and after leaving a patient room

When hands are heavily soiled or greasy, hand sanitizers may not work well. Hand washing with soap and water is recommended at those times.

Generally, cleaning hands with either soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer works well to remove most germs. Yet, some germs are better killed with soap and water; and others are better killed with hand sanitizer. In either of these special cases, the doctor or nurse will tell the patient family, and the patient will be placed in isolation. Signs will be hung on the door saying, "Cleaning hands with soap and water is required" or "Cleaning hands with alcohol hand sanitizer is preferred."

In most cases, it is OK to use either soap and water or hand sanitizer to clean hands, you don't need both. You can use either option unless your child has been placed in isolation, your hands are visibly dirty or your child's doctor or nurse has given you other hand cleaning guidelines to follow.

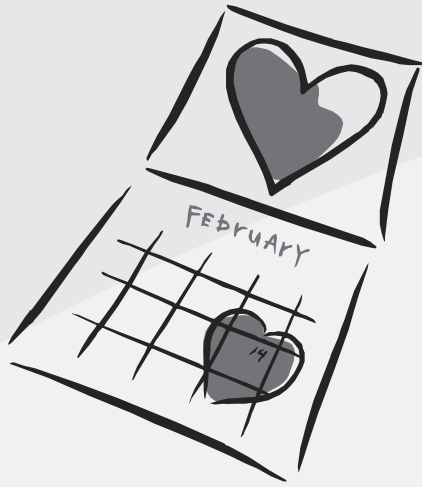
Assessment and Triage 2 opens

To meet the growing demand for morning Assessment/Triage appointments, the Ambulatory Care Unit recently opened a new area called Assessment/Triage 2. It will provide three new rooms in Assessment/Triage Monday through Friday from 7 a.m.–noon.

"This extra space allows us to see 30 more patients a day in the busy Assessment and Triage area," said ACU Nurse Manager Janet Giordano, RN, MSN.

If your child is called to this new area, you will hear "A/T 2" on the overhead speakers. A/T 2 is located in the former B Clinic space on the first floor of the Patient Care Center. It is between the fish tanks in the same lobby as the Medicine Room. If you see A/T 2 on your child's appointment card, this is where you will take your child for that Assessment/Triage visit.





New product offered to help clean your child's central line

If you take care of your child's central line at home or in St. Jude housing, you have been using alcohol pads to clean the Claves® and line hubs. Last month, St. Jude changed the home care guidelines to include the use of Site Scrub® devices instead of alcohol pads. Chances are you have already seen St. Jude nurses using Site Scrub® in the hospital.

The staff studied both alcohol pads and Site Scrub®, and when used properly, they found no difference in how well germs were killed. Both products also contain the same amount of alcohol, but the process for using the Site Scrub® is a little shorter. The staff thought that the new Site Scrub® devices might allow caregivers to clean the Claves® and line hubs in a more consistent way. They are hopeful that this new method might further decrease the hospital's already low line infection rates.

This change does not mean that alcohol pads are not as good for cleaning. In fact, if a Site Scrub® is

not available, an alcohol wipe should be used.

Using the Site Scrub® is simple, but it must be done correctly to get the proper cleaning and full benefit of the product.

- Take the Site Scrub® and push it onto the Clave® or hub of the line (whichever you are cleaning) as far as it will go.
- Turn it 8 times using a back and forth motion for 10 seconds.
- Take it off and allow the Clave® or hub to air dry for 5 seconds.

If you need help learning to use Site Scrub®, talk to your primary nurse or a line care nurse. They will also order your supply of the Site Scrub® devices.



Celebrate Mardi Gras February 17

It's time for the annual St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Mardi Gras parade, which is planned for Tuesday, February 17.

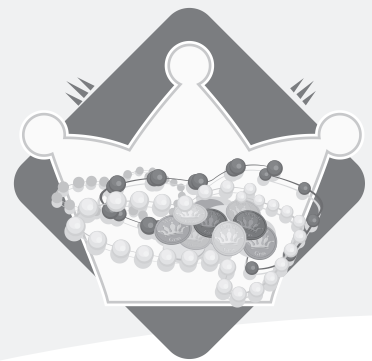
The outpatient event is planned for 9 a.m. in the Kay Kafe Corner, where children will decorate masks and floats. The parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. and last no more than 30 minutes. You can escort your child throughout the parade route, which starts in the Kay Kafe Corner lobby.

The parade will end with a Mardi Gras Celebration for staff and families at the Kay Kafe Corner. Cake and punch will be served.

For inpatients, decorating and set up will be in the second floor lobby beginning at 10:30 a.m. The parade

route will go through the second floor hallways starting around 11 a.m.

For more details and updates, look for signs posted on the day of the event. *Laissez les bons temps rouler* (let the good times roll)!



St. Jude Parents is published on the first of each month by Patient Education and Biomedical 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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For the latest details on upcoming events, see the bulletin board in the Patient Care Center lobby near Patient Registration.