

JANUARY 2015

Keeping up with your child's schedule

You've probably noticed that St. Jude patients have lots of appointments in many different areas of the hospital. Nurse schedulers are the ones who try to make sure that all patients have the appointments they need each day and that all St. Jude resources are correctly scheduled to ensure your child's safety.

Sometimes the schedules of several patients must be adjusted to fit in a child with an urgent medical need. Other times, a parent will tell the clinic about a new symptom the child is having, which results in another appointment being added to that patient's schedule (such as a visit to the eye clinic, dental clinic, or an added scan).

The best way to see your child's current appointment information is to sign up for *My St. Jude*, our online patient portal. *My St. Jude* allows you to see parts of your child's medical

record and view the most up-to-date appointment schedule, as well as certain lab results. You can even use the portal to ask your child's health care team non-urgent questions. When appointments change they are updated right away in *My St. Jude*.

Patient families can check the online schedule as often as they like. Pick up an enrollment form for *My St. Jude* in Patient Registration.

Keep in mind that the last schedule card you receive might not be correct a few hours later. If you are not using *My St. Jude*, always check with your nurse scheduler at the end of each hospital day and pick up a new schedule each morning. If your child is off-therapy, please check for schedule changes as soon as you arrive on campus. The schedule you received in the mail might not be correct after you arrive.

It is very important to make sure the hospital has up-to-date contact

information for you. And if you are staying in St. Jude housing and not using *My St. Jude*, be sure to check the voice mail on your room phone often. The St. Jude staff may leave messages for you or call about schedule changes.

The St. Jude staff wants to work with you to make sure your hospital visits go smoothly.

New tutoring program offered

The St. Jude School Program is starting a new volunteer tutoring program in January for patients who are here for a very short time and need help with their schoolwork. Some patients who are here for follow-up appointments are still in school at home but need to bring their work with them to complete while they are at St. Jude. They might need tutoring help to get the work done, and they might want a quiet place to work while waiting for clinic appointments.

The tutors will be available beginning Monday, January 12. They will be in the School Program suite on the Patient Care Center Plaza Level for up to four hours on specific days. This will be a "walk-in" service—no need to schedule an appointment.

The schedule of tutor days and times has not been finalized, but by January 12 it will be posted on the door to the School Program suite. It can also be obtained from the Guest Services representatives in the Patient Care Center and Chili's Care Center lobbies.

Please call School Program Director Laurie Leigh at 901-595-3346 if you have questions.

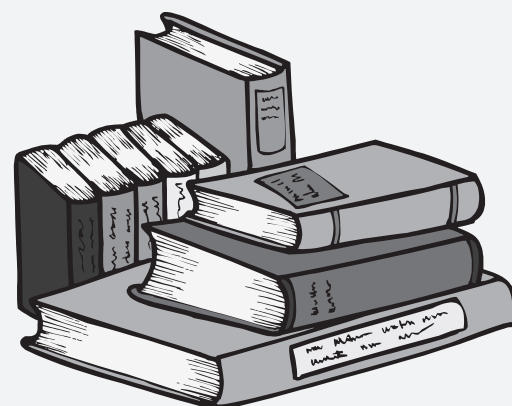
Learn more about providing the best quality of care for your child

The St. Jude Quality Improvement Council will host a "Do You Know" Fair for parents and families Wednesday, January 28, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the ABC Wall, located near the Kay Kafe. During the fair, council members, along with staff from the Pharmacy, Rehabilitation Services and the Specialty Infusion Pharmacy will share information about the following topics:

- How to take a temperature
- Temperature conversion
- Fever precautions and when to call the doctor
- Troubleshooting equipment and other devices:
 - CADD pumps
 - Eclipse balls
 - Giving TPN
 - Wagons and wheelchairs
- Contact isolation
- Clean hands
- Infection control
- Allergy awareness
- Adverse drug reactions

You and your family can take part in games and receive giveaways for attending this event. Bring your questions, concerns and ideas about how the St. Jude staff can continue to improve care for patients and families. The staff looks forward to meeting each of you.

To learn more about the Quality Improvement Council's Do You Know Fair, email Chardae Edwards at chardae.edwards@stjude.org.





Talking about Medicines

Home medicines on the inpatient unit

By Shane Cross, PharmD, Pharmaceutical Services

If your child becomes an inpatient, it is likely that the staff will order new prescription meds even if you bring a home supply of your child's medicines. The staff orders new meds for several reasons:

- To ensure that your child gets the correct dose of each medicine, since the dose might change during the inpatient stay.
- To make sure that your child only gets the medicines needed while inpatient, since some medicines may be temporarily stopped during an inpatient stay.
- To keep the medicines out of reach of the patient and any other child who might come into the patient's room.

The medicines you bring to the hospital with your child will not be used on the inpatient unit unless:

- The prescribing clinician writes an order that says the medicines from home can be used while the child is an inpatient; and
- A St. Jude pharmacist has inspected the medicines.

The pharmacist will make sure the medicine is the correct drug and the correct dose, and that it is in good condition.

When you arrive on the inpatient unit with your child, a nurse will collect all the medicines you bring with you. Most medicines cannot be kept in the patient's room. The nurse will store the medicines in a secure place for you. There are some medicines that cannot be stored for you. The nurse will encourage you to take these back home or to St. Jude housing. All medicines that are collected at admission will be returned to you when your child is discharged from the inpatient unit unless the clinician decides that your child no longer needs to take it.

These policies about prescription medicines are in place to keep your child safe. If you have questions about medicines you bring from home to the inpatient unit, talk to your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

All are encouraged to get flu shot

Influenza (the flu) is a virus that causes symptoms like fever, chills, cough and body aches. For patients who have weak immune systems, the disease can be severe. Your child might develop breathing problems that require a hospital stay. The flu could even lead to death.

St. Jude infectious disease doctors recommend that all St. Jude patients receive the flu vaccine each year. Staff members, caregivers and siblings older than 6 months are also encouraged to get vaccinated. Having all members of the family vaccinated helps provide a circle of protection around the patient. It is one way to keep the virus from coming close to your child.

Look for signs on bulletin boards around the hospital for times and locations where you, other caregivers and siblings (ages 4 and older) may receive free flu vaccinations.



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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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