

JUNE 2017

Speak up about your child's care

You are your child's best advocate for safe health care. Health care workers are people, and all people can make mistakes. If something doesn't look right or sound right to you, it might not be right.

As your child's primary caregiver, you have the right to question each staff member who is caring for your child. If that person does not answer your questions in a way that addresses your concerns, ask to speak with a nurse manager, your child's doctor or the nursing coordinator. A nursing coordinator is on duty at all times.

Keep these safety tips in mind each time your child visits the hospital:

- Make sure staff members check your child's ID armband before providing any care. This ensures that your child only has the tests, treatments and medicines that have been ordered.
- Ask staff members to double-check the doctor's orders, if they are about to give your child a medicine that does not look or sound familiar.

- Ask staff members to double-check the doctor's orders if they are about to perform a procedure that you do not remember discussing with the doctor.
- Let staff members know of any situation that you think puts your child at risk.
- Ask to speak to a pharmacist for any questions or concerns about medicines. A pharmacist is here to speak with you 24 hours a day.
- Make sure you understand the staff member's answers to your questions.

It is always OK to ask a staff member to explain an answer again. If the answer doesn't make sense the second time, ask to speak with a nurse manager, doctor or nursing coordinator.

If you have a concern about your child's care, do not wait and worry about it. Please talk to a staff member right away. Patient Education created a brochure and pocket card both called "We Care about Your Concerns." The brochure tells you who to talk to for certain issues and

how to report your concerns. The pocket card is a handy way to carry these important phone numbers with you. Pick up a copy of the brochure and pocket card in Patient Registration, Patient Services or at the lobby desks in the Patient Care Center, Chili's Care Center or Kmart St. Jude Life Center.

You are a crucial part of your child's health care team. We need your help to provide the safest care possible. Never be afraid to speak up about your child's care.

Sibling Star Day offers "Amazing Race" activities

Child Life will host the 2017 Sibling Star Day "Amazing Race" event Thursday, June 15. The day will be filled with fun for siblings 4–19 years of age. Registration will be open from 10–10:30 a.m. at the Domino's Event Center located on the St. Jude campus. Siblings will take part in Amazing Race-type activities from 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. and have lunch from 11:30–noon.

Patients and families will be asked to join the siblings for dessert in the Domino's Event Center at noon to watch clips of the Sibling Star Day Amazing Race event. After dessert, families will line the red carpet outside Domino's Event Center as the siblings walk and receive their medals.

If you have questions about this event, talk to a child life specialist.

No strong scents at the hospital, please

For patients in treatment, perfumes, aftershaves and scented lotions can smell intensely strong. For many patients, these smells can increase their feelings of nausea, or 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.

Understanding MRI safety rules can help keep you and your child safe

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans may be used to take pictures of the inside of your child's body using a large magnet, radio waves and computers. The MRI magnet is very strong and will attract metal objects, causing them to become hot or move quickly toward the scanner. Having metal on your clothes, shoes or even in your body, could be dangerous for anyone in the room. For this reason, safety rules must be strictly followed in the MRI area.

The area before you enter the MRI scan room is restricted. The staff calls this area Zone III; it includes the induction rooms.

Only one caregiver may go with the patient to the MRI area. Other caregivers and siblings must remain in the waiting room. This may require changes to travel plans so that another caregiver can watch siblings.

Patients and caregivers must remain in what the staff calls Zone II until they have both completed the MRI screening process. Caregivers will need to be screened in this area before moving to Zone III whether or not they plan to go into the MRI scan room with the patient.

These rules promote the safest environment for our patients and families.

If you have questions or concerns about the safety rules for the MRI scan area, please talk to your child's doctor, nurse, MRI technologist or radiation therapist.





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 held 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 the staff cannot store 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.

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



VBS week offered for patients and siblings

Vacation Bible school is a church event that many kids look forward to each summer. It can be hard to fit your home-church VBS into your child's schedule when you are at the hospital every day. The chaplains of Spiritual Care Services are offering a week-long VBS opportunity for grade school-aged patients and siblings.

This year's theme is "Beyond: A Galactic Look at God and Our Experience at St. Jude."

St. Jude VBS 2017

Dates: Monday, June 26, through Friday, June 30

Time: 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Where: St. Jude Auditorium, second floor, Richard C. Shadyac ALSAC Tower

Each day VBS will focus on a new Bible verse along with crafts, games and snacks. To learn more, email Chaplain Kimberly Russell at kimberly.russell@stjude.org or talk to any of the St. Jude chaplains.

St. Jude Parents is published on the first of each month by Family-Centered Care Services 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 or to learn more about *St. Jude Parents*, visit www.stjude.org/parents-newsletter. St. Jude is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

St. Jude complies with health care-related federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

ATTENTION: If you speak another language, assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-866-278-5833 (TTY: 1-901-595-1040).

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-866-278-5833 (TTY: 1-901-595-1040).

تنبيه: إذا كنت تتحدث بلغة أخرى، فيمكنك الاستعانة بخدمات المساعدة اللغوية المتوفرة لك بالمجان. يرجى الاتصال بالرقم 1-866-278-5833 (الهاتف النصي: 1-901-595-1040).



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

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