Changes for Patient Scheduling

St. Jude Patient Scheduling is moving to a central location in mid-March. In the past, schedulers were located in each clinic, which meant they sometimes handled other duties in addition to scheduling patient appointments. This change will allow the Patient Scheduling staff to focus more attention on each patient’s schedule. The goal of this move is to provide you with the most accurate schedule in a timely manner.

The schedulers will still be able to meet with patient families one on one in their new location on the Patient Care Center third floor. As in the past, you can always talk to your scheduler by phone. You can call the new central number 901-595-6146, and your call will be directed to the correct scheduler. And, the scheduling phone numbers you are currently using will continue to work.

You can also use the My St. Jude patient portal to check your child’s schedule. To sign up for My St. Jude, pick up a brochure from Patient Registration or download it at www.stjude.org/mystjude.

Child Life invites you to fun, March Madness activities

Everyone knows what happens in March. That’s right, Music Madness and Child Life Championship Week! Come celebrate and learn about Child Life and Music Therapy by attending our March Madness event, Monday, March 13, from 9–11 a.m.

Have your own championship picture made in the photo booth and enjoy the concessions along the ABC Wall. While viewing stats of the Child Life team, you can take part in providing the halftime entertainment. Sing some karaoke on the MVP stage or even try your hand at playing basketball located in the Kay Kafe Corner.
Oral syringes versus IV syringes

By Cheri Wilkerson, PharmD, and Steve Pate, PharmD, Pharmacy Services

Many times when we hear the word syringe, we think of a syringe that is used to inject medicine into the body. But, a different type of syringe is used to give medicines by mouth (oral). These syringes are a great way to measure oral liquid medicine, so each dose is correct.

For your child’s safety, make sure you know how to give each medicine the correct way. Here are a few things to remember:

- Always be sure you listen carefully when your doctor, nurse or pharmacist describes how to give the medicine. Do not be afraid to ask questions about anything you do not understand. If you are unsure about something, ask them to repeat the instructions a second time.
- Read the prescription labels carefully to be sure you received the medicine in the proper form, such as a liquid or tablet.
- Throw out oral syringes after each use with chemotherapy. For all other medicines, you can wash and reuse oral syringes unless the clinic doctor or nurse tells you not to.
- Oral syringes are only meant to be used by mouth. Usually, oral syringes are yellowish-brown or orange in color, except when a patient needs a dose larger than 10mls.
- Clear syringes usually are used to inject medicines through an IV, into a muscle (IM) or just under the skin (sub-Q).
- The tip of an oral syringe is different than the tip on an IV syringe. An oral syringe will not fit onto the end cap of a patient’s IV line. The syringe tips were designed this way to help prevent medicine errors.
- Store oral syringes away from IV syringes to avoid making mistakes with your child’s medicines.
- Pre-filled oral syringes have a cap on the end to prevent the liquid medicine from leaking out. As soon as you are ready to give the medicine, remove this cap and throw it away to prevent your child from swallowing the cap and choking. There should never be a need to recap an oral syringe.
- If you have questions about any of your child’s medicines, talk with a St. Jude pharmacist, doctor or nurse.