

John Hunter Children's Hospital

Children's Cancer and Haematology Service

John Hunter Children's Hospital (JHCH) is the main tertiary referral hospital for children and young people in the Hunter region and, in partnership with the Northern Child Health Network in northern NSW.

Oncology and haematology services have been provided at the JHCH since 1999 when the first paediatric oncology/haematology specialist was appointed.

This service has expanded and now includes 3 staff specialists:

- Dr Frank Alvaro
- Dr Janis Chamberlain
- Dr Elizabeth Hesketh

The service provides diagnosis, treatment and follow-up for children and young people up to and including the age of 18 years with all forms of paediatric cancer including solid tumours and lymphoreticular malignancies.

In addition, specialist paediatric haematology consultation, review and management is available for children and young people with non-malignant haematological conditions.

Other services provided:

- Multidisciplinary team (MDT) review for patients with solid tumour cancers
- Weekly multidisciplinary care team review

Access to:

- Specialist paediatric surgeons
- Paediatric neurosurgery
- Specialist paediatric medical imaging
- Specialist paediatric radiation oncology at the Calvary Mater Newcastle and Sydney Children's Hospital
- Specialist pathology services
- Specialist oncology ward and day unit facility for outpatient chemotherapy
- Specialist paediatric anaesthesia and pain management and palliative care services
- Cancer care coordination with specialist oncology nurse consultant
- Autologous stem cell transplant
- Access to extensive national and international cancer clinical trials programme
- Shared care with paediatricians for patients from rural locations
- Outreach clinic to Taree

- Education sessions for patients and families who have recently completed therapy
- Sibling days
- Late effects follow-up for monitoring the long term effects of cancer therapy into adulthood with an emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention
- Diagnosis and management of non-malignant haematological conditions

Accessing the service

Urgent referrals

- Suspicion of acute leukaemia with abnormal full blood count
- Petechiae/bruising
- Acute bleeding
- Intracranial space-occupying mass (requires urgent neurosurgical consult)
- Mediastinal masses
- Tumour causing acute urinary obstruction

For urgent consultation and advice on oncological or haematological matters please contact the John Hunter Hospital switchboard on 02 49213000 and request to speak with the on-call Paediatric Oncologist. Urgent oncology or haematology patient referrals do not have to wait for outpatient appointments to be reviewed.

Please have all relevant information and results to hand at the time of call.

Non-urgent referrals

Non-urgent referrals may include a combination of the following:

- Lumps
- Lymphadenopathy
- Weight loss for investigation
- Bone pain

Appointments can be made via the Paediatric Outpatient Department:

Phone	02 49855180
Fax	02 49855605

Please fax referral through to above number **and** have patient bring original written referral on the day of consultation.

If any investigations have been done please send/fax all results to enable review at time of consultation.

In addition to the specialist medical team the following services are also available:

- Social work and psychology services
- Paediatric physiotherapy and occupational therapy
- Specialist dietician service
- Paediatric oncology pharmacist
- Music and play therapy

We can also provide links to community-based support organisations including:

- Redkite
- Ronald McDonald House and Ronald McDonald Family Room
- Starlight Foundation
- Leukaemia Foundation
- Make-A-Wish Foundation
- Canteen
- Camp Quality
- Kids with Cancer
- NSW Cancer Council

www.kaleidoscope.org.au
Authorised by the Children's Cancer and Haematology Service 02 49213080
John Hunter Children's Hospital
April 28 2008

Referral Pathway for Children and Young People with Cancer & Non-malignant Haematological Conditions