

WHATCOM COUNTY CHILD HEALTH NOTES

Whatcom County Child Health Notes is distributed by Whatcom County Health and Human Services / Children with Special Health Care Needs. This newsletter is intended to provide physicians and nurse practitioners with current information regarding identification and management of special needs conditions. Contributing agencies and programs include: Washington State Department of Health - Children With Special Health Care Needs Program (Contract #N08400), University of Washington - Center on Human Development and Disability, Whatcom County Medical Home Training and Resource Project, the Whatcom County Interagency Coordinating Council, and the Whatcom County Parent to Parent Support Group. Additional Child Health Notes are available at <http://depts.washington.edu/medhome>

Palliative Care for Children



Palliative care forms the bridge between curative and end-of-life care; it seeks to enhance the quantity and quality of life for children with potentially life-limiting conditions. Palliative care does not dismiss the possibility of cure, but provides family-centered, comprehensive care – creating a coordinated care plan to include all specialty areas.

Palliative care may be considered for children who have conditions:

- ❖ That are not progressive but render children vulnerable and susceptible to life-limiting complication
- ❖ For which cure is possible but may fail
- ❖ Where death is likely but long periods of treatment may prolong quantity and quality of life
- ❖ That are known to be lethal in which treatment is palliative from the beginning

(adapted from Ann Goldman M.D.)

Palliative care may include:

- ❖ Discussions regarding advance care planning and long-term care needs at the time of diagnosis or as early as possible following diagnosis.
- ❖ Careful attention to pain and symptom relief, with consultation as needed.
- ❖ Care conferences with the family and representatives of involved services / agencies

Primary Care for children with palliative care needs includes consideration and documentation of:

- ❖ Medical history and present areas of concern,
- ❖ Options for treatment and risks and benefits of each option.
- ❖ Patient preferences regarding decision-making and end-of-life care
- ❖ Quality of life issues
- ❖ Family, social and funding issues

A palliative care **Decision-Making Tool** (“DMT”), developed by Seattle Children’s Hospital, can provide a framework for comprehensive communication and clinical decision- making. Typically a DMT is completed in a care conference with patients, families, and care team members. The plan of care is designed to be signed by the physician of record and to serve as an order sheet.

A Family View: "In our situation, there are so many unknowns. It is invaluable to have this roadmap. We went from being very scared and not knowing what to do, to having a roadmap for what could happen in the different possible situations, and feeling very confident about the possibilities. I have so much more confidence. I can handle it, because people are there to hold my hand. They have good ideas, they say reassuring things. They say, 'Things can happen to help your child.'"

Parent of a child receiving palliative care services

Resources for Pediatric palliative care consultation include:


Providence Hospice, Everett, WA –The Carousel Program
Contact: Cherri Pride, Director: 425-261-4777

Children’s Hospital and Regional Medical Center, Pediatric Palliative Care Consulting Service & Pain Management Service: 206-526-2176 or 1-877-528-2700 ext. 4751; email: ppcp@chmc.org

An electronic or hard copy of the MT tool and guidelines may be obtained by contacting the Pediatric Palliative Care Consulting Service at CHRMC 1-877-528-2700 ext. 4751.

Where to Start in Whatcom County:




Developmental Concerns

 For Children under age three, contact Whatcom County Early Childhood Assessment Clinic @ (360) 738-2522 or 384-0574

 For Children age three and older, contact the Public School Special Education Program by District:

Bellingham	(360) 676-6514	FAX 676-2692	Meridian	(360) 398-9898	FAX 398-8966
Blaine	(360) 332-5213	FAX 332-7568	Mt. Baker	(360) 383-2012	FAX 383-2014
Ferndale	(360) 383-9212	FAX 383-9230	Nooksack	(360) 988-4754	FAX 988-8983
Lynden	(360) 354-2893	FAX 354-7662			

Assistance with Access to Services for Children with Special Needs:

-  Children with Special Health Care Needs: (360) 738-2522 or 384-0574
-  Infant-Toddler Early Intervention Program (360) 738-2522 or 384-0574
-  Parent-to-Parent: (360) 756-3600

Child Health Services web site: www.co.whatcom.wa.us/health/programs/CHS_Home/chs_home

The Child Health Services web site is also accessible through the CHIC site on Hlnet. is under Clinical Protocols


Regional / Washington State:

Answers For Special Kids (ASK) Washington State information and referral line 1-800-322-2588








Children's Hospital & Regional Medical Center Telephone Consultation:

 Health Professional Hotline: 1-800-293-2462  Children's Resource Line: 1-877-526-2500

The Compassionate Friends (for bereaved parents)

 Snohomish County: 360-652-7541  Seattle: 206-241-1139

National / Internet:

-  AAP Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics: www.dbpeds.org/html
-  American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP): [//www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)
-  American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): www.aap.org
-  Bright Futures: www.brightfutures.org
-  Family Village: www.familyvillage.wisc.edu
-  The Governor's Commission on Early Learning: www.earlylearningofwa.org/
-  Zero to Three; www.zerotothree.org – excellent resources on early brain development for primary care providers and parents

Children with Special Health Care Needs
Whatcom County Health and Human Services
POB 935 Bellingham WA 98227