



Holistic Needs Assessments for Long Term Follow Up (LTFU) patients and families within the Haematology/Oncology team

This information sheet from Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) explains the Holistic Needs Assessment offered to all families of children seen in the Long Term Follow Up clinic (LTFU). For more information about the LTFU service, please see the Long Term Follow Up leaflet. This may have been posted with this letter or you can request a copy from your Clinical Nurse Specialist.

What is a Holistic Needs Assessment?

We realise that when your child has been treated for cancer, this can affect many areas of family life. This is why you will be offered an appointment with your Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) to discuss your family's concerns and situation to discuss what help is available. This is called a Holistic Needs Assessment.

Families have told us this this would be beneficial for them: *"Would be helpful if there was someone to talk to parents, deal with concerns and worries about how to live during and after the treatment."* (Quote from Parent Survey)

This appointment is a conversation with you, your child (depending on their age and understanding), and your child's CNS. It is an opportunity to discuss any issues and worries in relation to your child and impact of this on the whole family, as well as how you are finding things personally.

We aim for this appointment to take place at the start of your child's LTFU care as this helps us to get to know your family and understand your child's needs.

What areas will we be asked about during this appointment?

We are interested in the wellbeing of all family members, how your child has been able to make sense of their illness and how things are going in the here and now. We realise that, for some families, talking to your child about their previous diagnosis isn't always easy. This can be discussed at the appointment but please feel free to contact your CNS beforehand if you would like to. We also realise that how you are feeling can have a direct effect on how you care for your child.

- Physical needs
- Family and social situation
- Educational needs
- Psychological wellbeing of child and family
- Spiritual needs

What happens after the appointment?

Your CNS will write a brief summary of the conversation, including a plan of what has been agreed, including whether any extra help from other teams is needed. You will be sent a copy of this, and we will also ask your permission to share this with other key professionals, such as your child's local consultant and nursing team, and your child's family doctor GP.



Any questions?

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact your child's CNS.

Your child's CNS is:

Vivienne Bristow

Clinical Nurse Specialist – Long Term Follow Up

Phone: 020 7813 8127

Email: vivienne.bristow@gosh.nhs.uk

or Ltfu@gosh.nhs.uk

We look forward to meeting you!

PLEASE NOTE: This does not replace your appointment with the Consultant in the LTFU clinic, the date for which you have already been sent. This is an additional appointment, designed to be able to better support you, your child and family. Please do contact the LTFU service on the number or email addresses above if you wish to change the appointment date. We would appreciate it if you could do this in advance of the clinic.