



**Royal United Hospitals Bath**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Paediatric Oncology at the Royal United Hospital Bath

**A Guide for Patients and Parents**



## Welcome to the RUH Paediatric Oncology Team

Dr Jagadeesh Ramachandra  
Consultant Paediatrician

Office: **01225 824393**



Lorna Murkin  
Social Worker

Office:  
**0117 342 8133**

Mobile:  
**07876 582650**



Email:  
[Lorna.Murkin@younglivesvscancer.org.uk](mailto:Lorna.Murkin@younglivesvscancer.org.uk)

Dr Polly Bates  
Associate Specialist

Office: **01225 824435**



Paediatric Ward (Children's Centre):  
Contactable for advice after 5pm  
and at weekends on **01225 824421**.

Jo Powell  
Play Specialist, may be contacted  
via the Ward

Lucy Bridges  
Paediatric Oncology  
Outreach Nurse Specialist

Office: **01225 824435**

Mobile: **07827230569**



Sarah Fay  
Paediatric Oncology  
Outreach Nurse Specialist

Office: **01225 824435**

Mobile: **07827230569**



## Shared Care

Here in Bath we operate a 'shared care' policy with Bristol Children's Hospital for our children and young people with a cancer or malignancy.

Bristol Children's Hospital is the regional centre for paediatric oncology covering the South West of England. If it is suspected that a child or young person has either a tumour or a leukaemia they are usually referred to Bristol. Further tests are carried out in Bristol to establish the diagnosis and treatment (which may include chemotherapy, radiotherapy or surgery) is planned and often started.

Following this, most patients are referred back to our team on the Children's Centre at the Royal United Hospital Bath. We then continue with the treatment that had been planned in Bristol.

The two hospitals work closely together and treatment will be overseen by the consultants in Bristol.

Most courses of treatment require some inpatient time in the Children's Centre. We have excellent facilities on our ward including a large bright playroom, outside play area and chillout room for the teenagers. We also have a school room staffed by ward teachers for those missing school time.

Wherever possible oncology patients are nursed in the purpose built cubicles. Each cubicle has its own private bathroom and an attached parent room with a fold out bed.

Outpatient chemotherapy, along with routine checks and follow up care, occurs in our regular clinic on a Wednesday morning held in the Children's Outpatient Department.

## Medical Staff

Dr.Polly Bates and Dr.Jagadeesh Ramachandra are responsible for the day to day care of the paediatric oncology patients. They run the Wednesday morning outpatient clinic, supervise any ward care and prescribe chemotherapy.

## Paediatric Oncology Outreach Nurse Specialists

To minimise disruption to your family as much as possible during treatment, Lucy Bridges and Sarah Fay work from the Children's Centre to enable some treatment and tests to be carried out at home, nursery, school or college. They will also link home and hospital care, liaising with you and all the professionals involved.

Sarah and Lucy can be contacted via the office, which has an answer machine, and they also carry a mobile phone from 08:00 to 17:30, Monday to Friday, enabling you to contact them quickly should you have any problems.

Out of these hours you will be able to phone the Children's Centre for advice from the on call paediatric doctors on 01225 824421.

## CLIC Sargent Social Worker

Lorna Murkin offers practical and emotional support to all our families. She provides information about, and assistance with, benefits, grants and educational issues as well as helping to arrange holidays and outings.

## Other Staff you might expect to meet

The Children's Centre offers facilities to all the children in the Bath area. We have a large team of doctors and nurses including consultant paediatricians as well as trainee doctors who you might expect to meet during ward admissions. Although not part of the Oncology Team, they have considerable experience both in general paediatrics and oncology.

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust  
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Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email [ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net) or telephone 01225 825656 / 826319.