



## Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program

Offering Support, Treatment  
and Education for  
former cancer patients

Children's  
Hospital  
Central California   
Amazing People. Incredible Care.

*“It’s not just enough to survive cancer as a child. We want them to have the best quality of life after cancer.”*

- John Gates, MD  
Program Director

# Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program

Our program works with families and childhood cancer patients who are cancer-free at least three years from completion of treatment. Our goal is to educate, empower and prepare survivors for adulthood and maintain their health as best as possible.

## Why We Need a Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program

Although more progress must be made before all children diagnosed with cancer are called survivors, treatments for childhood cancer have greatly improved over the past 40 years. Today, with enhanced therapies and supportive care, nearly 85 percent of children treated for cancer will become long-term survivors. As a result, we have more childhood cancer survivors than ever. This also means we have a new generation of patients with specialized needs for education, screening and preparation for their future.

The very same treatments that cure cancer patients may put them at risk for long-term health problems. The Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program at Children's Hospital's Central California helps these patients prepare for a brighter future.



## Multidisciplinary Team Approach

We know each patient is unique and may face different challenges. To meet your specific needs our survivorship team includes pediatric oncologists, nurse practitioners, nurses, dietitians, clinical psychologists, neuro-psychologists and social workers. Our childhood cancer survivors can also access more than 40 pediatric specialties if needed, including but not limited to: endocrinology, cardiology, physical and occupational therapy, neurology, pulmonology and audiology services. In addition we have local access to pediatric bone density testing.

## Opportunity to Participate in Survivorship Research

As a Children's Oncology Group (COG) member and one of the largest participants in COG research protocols on the West Coast, Children's oncology practice is investing in learning more about how to help our families in the future. We offer program participants opportunities to participate in current and future studies to learn more about the challenges survivors face once their cancer therapy is completed.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Who is eligible to participate?**

The program is open to any childhood cancer survivor up to age 21 who has been cancer-free for at least three years since completion of therapy, whether treated at Children's or another facility.

### **Do similar programs exist in the area?**

Only a handful of late effects/survivorship programs exist statewide. The program at Children's is the only one available in the Central Valley.

### **Where do I go for my visit?**

Our childhood cancer survivorship clinic is located on the first floor at Children's Hospital Craycroft Cancer Center.

### **When are appointments available?**

Our program sees survivor participants Monday through Friday. Due to scheduling of labs and diagnostic testing, appointments are usually in the morning.

### **How do I make an appointment?**

You may contact our program coordinator at (559) 353-5561 to start the appointment process or ask your primary care or oncology provider to refer you.

### **What will happen at my visit?**

Prior to your visit we will review your previous cancer therapy and identify specific screening tests for you. Each visit includes basic screening tests and an exam. You will also meet with each member of the survivorship team. Appointments with other suggested pediatric specialists at Children's may be made for the same day if desired.

## Services Provided

Children's Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program provides a comprehensive assessment of the childhood cancer survivor's health, academic and social development. Recommended annually, the evaluation specifically reviews the survivor's entire childhood cancer treatment history, including cumulative doses of chemotherapy and radiation, any complications or toxicities that occurred during therapy, and current state of health.

The appointment includes a physical exam and diagnostic testing to assess

the survivor's risk for treatment-related medical problems. Learning, vocational and social issues are also reviewed. We also offer dietary counseling, psychosocial support and assistance with planning for the eventual transition to adult care to promote the continued health of the survivor.

After the visit, we will provide a follow-up plan with individualized guidelines for future screenings, summary of their cancer treatment and information on modifications of any personal health-related risk factors to both the patient and their primary healthcare providers of their choosing.

**If you would like to learn more about Children's Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program or whether you are eligible for the program, please call (559) 353-5561.**



John Gates, MD

Director, Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program

Dr. Gates' interest in helping childhood cancer survivors achieve optimum health inspired him to lead the effort to establish the region's first pediatric multidisciplinary Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program at Children's Hospital Central California. A hematologist/oncologist at Children's, Dr. Gates completed his fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology at Texas Children's Cancer Center-Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. He also completed a research fellowship at The Center for Collaborative and Interactive Technologies at Baylor College.



Jocelyn Alsdorf, RN, MSN, CPON

Coordinator, Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program

Jocelyn spent eight years working as an RN in the inpatient oncology center at Children's Hospital Central California before obtaining her master's of science in nursing at California State University, Fresno. She was instrumental in developing the Childhood Cancer Survivorship Program at Children's and continues to help build the program. She is passionate about educating patients and their primary care providers on survivorship issues.

Children's  
Hospital  
Central California



Amazing People. Incredible Care.

9300 Valley Children's Place  
Madera, California  
93636-8762  
559-353-3000  
ChildrensCentralCal.org

Find us on  
Facebook [ChildrensCentralCal](#)

twitter [CareForKids](#)

YouTube [CaliforniaChildrens](#)