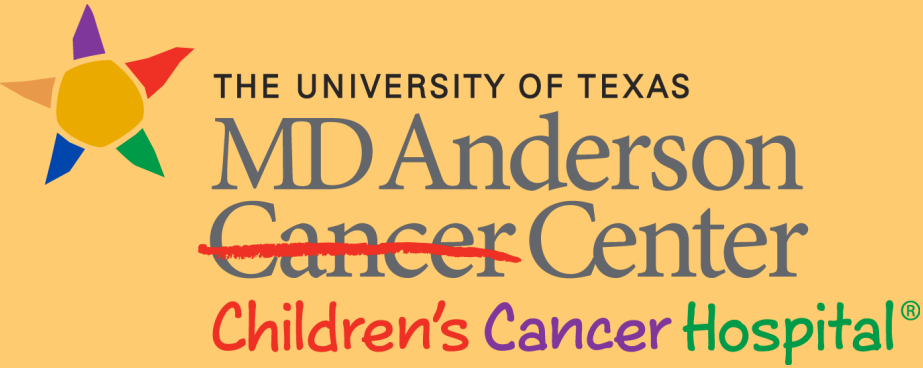


Psychosocial standards review and how one hospital is implementing the standards to improve care and educational opportunities



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Children and families who undergo cancer treatment are often at risk for psychosocial issues. Cancer treatment can have profound effects on the growth and development of pediatric patients (Brand, S., Wolfe, J. & Samsel, C., 2017). The services offered in each institution may vary, so the ability to create standards potentially benefits all children and families who undergo cancer treatment.



Learning Objectives

1. Share the creation of the Psychosocial Standards
2. Review the standards
3. Understand how the standards relate to education and child life services
4. Learn how one program is examining and implementing the standards with a multidisciplinary team

Development and history of the psychosocial standards for children with cancer and their families

In March of 2012, a congressional symposium that included psychosocial experts met and discussed the need for children and their families to have universal psychosocial services (Mattiemiracle/historystandards).

- These experts:
- Conducted a systematic review
 - Engaged in discussions
 - Developed 15 evidence-based standards
 - Formed work groups
 - Invited additional reviewers
 - Received feedback

Sibling Information Form

Patient's Name: _____ Patient's MHI: _____
 Permanent Address: _____
 Temporary Address (if different from above): _____
 Does patient reside on permanent address or temporary address? (Please circle one)
 Does sibling(s) reside on permanent address or temporary address? (Please circle one)
 Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____ (cell/home/text work)

Name of Sibling (First and last name)	Date of Birth	Age	Gender

Are you interested in learning more about sibling support services?
 Child Life School Program Social Work Psychology Case in Medicine Other
 Do you have any additional comments or concerns regarding siblings?
 School/academic Family concerns Social concerns Sleep concerns Other

Creating a team to review and implement the standards

Understanding the guidelines' value to the psychosocial care of children and families, the Children's Cancer Hospital created an interdisciplinary psychosocial team to review each standard. The standards became the inspiration for the psychosocial team.

Educators and child life specialist who are experts in the education and coping of hospitalized children were active participants on the team and are leading the way in improving care for children with cancer, siblings and families.

The Interdisciplinary Psychosocial Team consists of:

- Child life specialists
- Education liaisons
- Nurses
- Psychologists
- Chaplains
- Translators
- Physicians
- Music Therapist
- Arts in Medicine

Psychosocial Team responsibilities

- Meet bi-weekly
- Review each standard
- Examine current practice
- Identify weakest standards/growth opportunities
- Create task forces
- Research relevant materials
- Develop and implement new programming to meet the standard
- Continue to review each standard and implement appropriate programming to advance quality care

Creation of task forces

The psychosocial team identified three standards which required immediate attention to improve services. Task forces were created for each of these standards and charged with reviewing current practice, brainstorming improvements and implementing the improvements.

The psychosocial team will also follow these guidelines and review the remaining 12 standards. Once all standards are reviewed and improvements are implemented, the standards will be reviewed bi-annually by a group on the psychosocial team to ensure they continue to be met and improvements are continuing to support children and families.

Standards addressed relevant to education

Standard 10: Siblings of children with cancer should be provided with appropriate supportive services. Parents and professionals should be advised about ways to anticipate and meet siblings' needs, especially when siblings are unable to visit the hospital regularly.



Standard 11: Academic continuity and school reentry support as a standard of care in pediatric oncology.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson Cancer Center
 Children's Cancer Hospital

Date: _____

I am the sibling of _____ who is currently being treated for _____ at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital. Recently _____ has had a change in health status and we have wanted to follow _____'s school of the change.

Revised progression of disease
 Location of care
 Patient has a longer program
 Significant change in physical/mental abilities
 Other _____

Due to _____'s diagnosis and treatment plan, _____ may be encountering _____ which may impact _____'s ability to attend school. _____ may experience more emotional and/or academic difficulties due to the current situation.

Our staff at MD Anderson Children's Cancer Hospital provides support to siblings to help them cope with long hospitalizations, diagnosis and ongoing issues. We are also aware that most children are very committed to their schools and this is where their greatest support may come from.

Please contact me directly should you need additional information and/or observed the following behaviors:

Decreased attention span
 Decreased test scores
 Decrease in school assignments
 Disruption in grades
 Behavioral changes
 Attendance issues

Thank you,
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Current initiatives

- Developing school communication forms for patients and siblings
 - Diagnosis
 - Emergent needs or special issues
 - End of life
- Developing sibling assessment and programming
 - Siblings intake form
 - Tracking data
 - Sibling and family events
 - Sibling recognition

Conclusion

It is crucial that psychosocial professionals including education specialists and child life specialists collaborate to offer the highest quality support and psychosocial care to pediatric patients, siblings and families. The standards could guide educational programming that provides quality care to patients and families. Reviewing the standards and implementing them can help ensure that programs are achieving the highest standards for patient and family care (Scialla, et al., 2017).

