STAR Program Overview

As a result of more effective treatment protocols, advanced research and an ever-increasing number of clinical trials, more than 85 percent of children diagnosed with cancer will be survivors. With survivorship, however, comes the risk of developing long-term side effects that are specific to a child’s treatment regimen.

People who have had cancer or a stem cell transplant in childhood have a risk of later health impacts due to treatment. The STAR Program provides care for people ages 25 and younger who are survivors of childhood cancer or who have had a stem cell transplant.
Specialized care for young survivors


For patients ages 25 and younger, we offer:

- Monitoring for known complications of therapy
- Health guidance
- Support services
- Treatment, if necessary

Patients come to the STAR Program two years from their last treatment.

Goals of the STAR Program
The STAR Program care team wants to help survivors improve their health and overall quality of life. They do this in many ways:

- Deliver expert, comprehensive survivorship care
- Identify treatment-related complications before they become health problems
- Provide vital early detection, prompt intervention and coordination of comprehensive care for our patients
- Empower survivor’s awareness and identification of late complications as well as continue to identify potential complications of therapy for survivors
- Communicate, coordinate care and educate healthcare providers about the unique needs of childhood cancer and SCT survivors
- Ensure appropriate transition to an adult childhood cancer and SCT survivorship program by the age of 25

A leader in survivorship care
The STAR Program has been caring for childhood cancer survivors since 2001. The Institute of Medicine recommends lifelong surveillance for these survivors.

Medical professionals in the STAR Program are members of national organizations leading the way on survivorship care, including:

- Children’s Oncology Group (COG)
- Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (APHON)

What to expect in the STAR Program
Through the STAR Program, survivors will have a comprehensive annual visit with our experienced childhood cancer and stem cell transplant survivorship team. This team includes advanced practice nurses, social workers and physicians from Lurie Children’s at Central DuPage Hospital.

Visits are designed to meet each person’s needs based on their medical history.

Each visit includes:

- A written summary of diagnosis and treatment
- A physical examination
- Updated patient and family medical history
- Education on potential late effects of treatment and health maintenance
- Testing, as needed
- Referral to specialists as needed
- Emotional, psychological and neurocognitive support services
- Genetic counseling as appropriate
- Introduction to community resources and social support services

To learn more about the STAR Program or ask for a referral, talk to your Lurie Children’s at Central DuPage Hospital Oncology team, your primary care physician or call 630.933.4291.