

Children's cardiac nurse specialist team

Information for children, families and carers

This factsheet contains information about the children's cardiac nurse specialist (CCNS) team.

Who are we?

We are a team of cardiac nurses who provide expert care and support to children and their families affected by congenital heart conditions, arrhythmias, and inherited cardiac conditions.

Our team is based on E1 Ocean ward at Southampton General Hospital.

What do we do?

We work closely with doctors to give children and their families personalised information, support and advice. We also provide a link for families between the hospital, local community services and home.

Our care starts at the time of diagnosis and continues up until children turn 18 years old.

How can we help?

We can offer support to you and your child in many different ways. We can:

- explain your child's diagnosis
- advise on the treatment and management options available
- provide verbal and written advice as and when you need it
- make you aware of any signs and symptoms to look out for
- explain the surgical admission process
- provide advice and support before and after surgery
- talk to community teams (for example, health visitors and community nurses)
- make referrals to other services if additional support is needed (for example, a referral to a psychologist or dietitian)
- help prepare your child to move to adult services when they are old enough

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Children's cardiac nurse specialist (CCNS) team
Telephone: **023 8120 4659** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)
Email: ccnsfamilies@uhs.nhs.uk

If we are unable to answer your call, please leave a message with your child's name, hospital number and your telephone number. A member of our team will return your call as soon as possible.

Useful links

We have included some links below which you may find helpful for further support and information.

Children's Heart Federation
Telephone: **0300 561 0065**
Website: www.chfed.org.uk

Families of Ocean ward
Website: www.oceanward.co.uk
Email: info@oceanward.co.uk

British Heart Foundation
Heart Helpline: **0808 802 1234**
Website: www.bhf.org.uk

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport

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