

# Oncology outreach (POONS)

The paediatric oncology outreach nurse specialist is the key worker who will work with you and your child in hospital and at home throughout the length of your child's treatment.

Your POONS key worker will be allocated according to the area where you live. You will find the name of your POONS on the contact sheet inside the front cover of this book.

The purpose of the role is to support your family in being able to maintain a normal family life within the context of your child's diagnosis.

The POONS support families throughout treatment by working alongside the ward, day ward and your local shared care team.

They aim to meet families soon after diagnosis and then provide the following support:

- Initial home visit to help make sense of all the information you have been given about your child's cancer, treatment and what it means for you now your child is at home. Your local community nurse may join us for this visit.
- School and nursery visits. Most children are keen to get back to school or nursery as soon as possible. With your agreement your POONS will arrange to visit your child's nursery or school to explain the diagnosis, answer questions and make sure teachers know how to handle important issues for your child.
- General home visits throughout treatment.
- End of treatment visit. Though families look forward to finishing treatment, this can be unsettling. Your POONS can provide support and advice for you at this time.
- Palliative care and bereavement support. Your POONS will liaise with local health care teams to provide your child and family with support and symptom control as needed.
- \* Unfortunately we are unable to offer a visiting service to patients on the Channel Islands at this time. We do however, provide a telephone support service.