

Maine Children's Cancer Program



Maine Children's Cancer Program (MCCCP), the pediatric oncology program of The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center, is committed to providing comprehensive care to children with cancer and blood disorders in Maine and parts of New Hampshire. Our team of pediatric oncology/hematology physicians, specialized nurses, social workers, research associates, a child life specialist, and a dedicated pediatric oncology clinical pharmacy specialist work together to provide care that incorporates three integrated components: state-of-the-art medical treatment, psycho-social support services, and clinical research. With approximately 50 new oncology diagnoses each year, 200 of whom are on active treatment at any time, along with about 150 children being followed for a variety of blood disorders such as hemophilia and sickle cell disease, MCCCP fills a need in our state, providing excellent care in a closer-to-home setting.



About Maine Children's Cancer Program:

- Maine Children's Cancer Program (MCCP) began in 1986 as a small, independent clinic in downtown Portland with four staff members. Thirty-five years later, following a 1994 merger with the pediatrics division of Maine Medical Center, the team has grown to 27 dedicated professionals working together to meet the needs of children battling cancer and hematological disorders. MCCP provides coordinated cancer care, clinical research opportunities that are moving us closer to a cure and psychosocial support for the entire family as they face childhood cancer.
- Maine Children's Cancer Program treats children ranging in age from infant to mid-twenties. Presently, there are 200 children/young adults receiving active treatment at MCCP and more than 2,000 children have been treated since the program opened its doors in 1986.
- Maine ranks approximately 10% higher than the national average for childhood cancer diagnoses, making the care provided at MCCP that much more crucial in our home state.
- Each year, around 50 children in Maine are newly diagnosed with cancer and treated by the team at MCCP. The average course of treatment is typically two years, although it can last much longer depending on the prognosis and type of cancer. Some patients are seen weekly, while others visit the clinic daily during the duration of their treatment. The team at MCCP make it their mission to create a unique, positive (and sometimes even fun) experience for each child during each clinic visit. Whether it's by measuring the patient's height in Legos, creating individualized coping plans for each patient during challenging procedures, celebrating milestones by paying a visit to the Owie Box to select a toy, playing I spy using the murals in all of the treatment rooms as a distraction tool - the team at MCCP goes above and beyond to make our kiddos smile when they need it most.



- Many of our patients require hospitalization at some point during their journey. The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital (BBCH) at Maine Medical Center, sees about ten MCCP patients each day; some children may be admitted for a brief 48-hour stay, while others might be hospitalized for up to three months. Because of the high inpatient census, an MCCP physician, social worker, and nurse practitioner are rotated at BBCH full-time to provide continuity to MCCP patients and families.

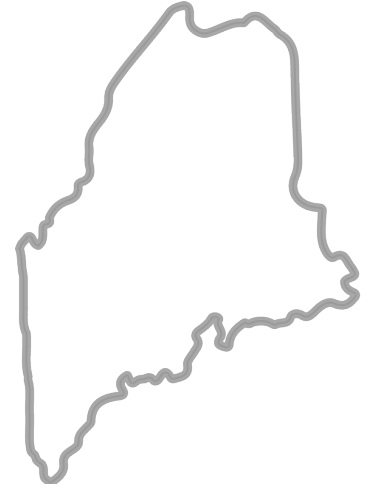
- Maine Children's Cancer Program is proud to be an accredited member of the Children's Oncology Group (COG), the premier research organization for childhood cancer in North America. This partnership affords MCCP the opportunity to participate in clinical research trials within COG and through collaborations with other institutions in hopes of bringing us closer to a cure.

- MCCP has three social workers and a child life specialist on staff that support our patients and families as they navigate each step of their childhood cancer diagnosis; the social work team is available to our patients and families 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



We are MCCP,
the Pediatric Oncology program of
The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital.

We treat children
with cancer and blood disorders in **Maine**
and parts of **New Hampshire.**



*We are a comprehensive
treatment center, made up of* **three** *integrated components:*

Medical Care:

After diagnosis, our patients are assigned to a primary medical team comprised of a physician, nurse, and social worker; that team remains constant throughout treatment, facilitating seamless care from the outpatient clinic in Scarborough to the BBCH inpatient unit in Portland.



Clinical Research:

MCCP is a member of the Children's Oncology Group (COG), the premier research organization for childhood cancer in North America. MCCP actively participates in clinical research trials within COG and through collaborations with other outside institutions.



**Psycho-social
Support Services:**

MCCP has three social workers on staff that support patients and families as they navigate the traumatic experience of a childhood cancer diagnosis. The social work team rotates being on call, making their services available to our patients and families around the clock.

Approximately

50

children are newly diagnosed with cancer **each year** at MCCP.

An average of

200

children are on **active treatment** at MCCP at any given time.

An estimated

114

social work hours are provided each week at MCCP.