Cardiac clinical nurse specialist (CNS) team

The CNS team

We are a team of cardiac nurses who have combined experiences of working on the children's cardiac ward, paediatric intensive care unit, fetal cardiology, and in children's community nursing.

We provide expert care and support to children and their families with congenital heart conditions, arrhythmias, and inherited cardiac conditions.

We work closely with the doctors so we can give advice and information specific to each child.

We provide a link between hospital, home and community services, from birth up to the age of 18.

Who can use the service

All children with a heart condition can access our service.

We attend and provide support in:
- outpatient cardiac clinics at Evelina London
- rapid access clinic, where we see urgent cardiac referrals
- joint cardiac clinics at some local hospitals
- the cardiac inpatient unit at Evelina London Children's Hospital
- the neonatal unit at St Thomas' Hospital
- paediatric intensive care unit

How we can help

At diagnosis

- Explaining diagnosis and management options.
- Giving verbal and written advice.
- Giving advice on signs and symptoms to look out for.

Pre- and post-operative care

- Providing advice and support before and after surgery.
- Liaising with community teams, such as health visitors and community nurses.
- Discussing the surgical admission process.
- Providing support at your local hospital.

During hospital stays

We give support to children and families who are inpatients at Evelina London and visit the cardiac inpatient unit on a regular basis (Monday to Friday).

Advice on everyday issues

We provide information and advice on issues including immunisations, feeding, weight gain, saturations, hydration, travel, wound care, sports and much more.

Education and social care support

- Providing care plans for nursery and schools.
- Providing letters of support and cardiac diagnosis for various organisations, such as social services, housing and Disability Living Allowance.

Transition to adult services

- We attend a joint clinic with adult and children's services.
- We hold a virtual nurse-led transition clinic every week for the patient and parent/carer to come to. This is an opportunity to meet the adult congenital cardiac nursing team.

We are not an emergency service. If you have a medical emergency, please call 999.

Support and more information

Evelina Children's Heart Organisation (ECHO) is a charity that supports the families of children with congenital heart disease who have treatment at Evelina London. They have a rota of trained prenatal support volunteers who offer comfort and reassurance at this stressful time. ECHO also sponsor specialist antenatal classes for parents of heart babies treated at Evelina London.

phone 07730 146 154

email prenatalsupport@echo-evelina.org.uk

web https://echo-uk.org/

Children's Heart Federation (CHF) is a national charity. They are the 'umbrella body' for voluntary organisations who work to meet the needs of children and young people with congenital and acquired heart conditions, and their families.

Freephone info line 0808 808 5000 9.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday

web www.childrens-heart-fed.org.uk

Contact us

The CNS team can explain more about these services, and answer any other related questions, **phone** 020 7188 4546, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Out of hours, please contact the inpatient cardiac unit, **phone** 020 7188 8849. Joint **email** PaediatricCardiologyCNS@gstt.nhs.uk

For more information about conditions, procedures, and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **web** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Evelina London Medicines Helpline
If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline. **phone** 020 7188 3003 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
email LetsTalkMedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS
Guy's and St Thomas'
NHS Foundation Trust