When your child is admitted to Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, it’s easy to feel helpless about what you can do to remedy the situation. Although your medical skills may be limited, there is a way you can contribute and help make a difference in your child’s – and other children’s – care … by joining the Family Advisory Council (FAC).

The mission of the FAC is to support the development and enhancement of family-centered care at duPont Hospital for Children and Nemours Children’s Clinics. This is an on-going process that encourages families to offer their perspectives to health care practitioners on policy and program development, implementation of health care facility design, and delivery of care.

This is an exciting time for Nemours. I “lived” at the Hospital for two weeks after my daughter underwent brain surgery and cardiac catheterization. In that time, I experienced every aspect of care – from the high-risk cardiac unit, PICU and ER to inpatient admissions and outpatient clinics. As much as I was impressed by the entire staff and level of care she received, I felt there was still room for improvement. This includes the overall perception of this incredible facility within the community. Although duPont Hospital for Children is ranked in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2012-2013 edition of the “Best Children’s Hospitals,” some people in our area still don’t see it as the go-to institution.

In August 2011, Nemours launched a $250-million expansion project designed for families by families to give the hospital the first-class rating it deserves. FAC members were invited to provide input on full-scale mock-ups of an intensive care room, a typical inpatient room, an ER department bay and a care team station. Nothing has been overlooked, including all single-patient rooms, state-of-the-art technology and family-friendly amenities.
Pardon Our Appearance

Please pardon the hospital’s appearance and excuse any construction noise as we clear the way to a healthier future for children. We are committed to creating a children’s hospital like no other in the region, giving our patients and families the promise of even better days to come. Get regular updates on the Hospital Expansion Project at Nemours.org/expansion or call our hotline number at (800) 842-1900.

Summer Sun Safety

We all know the warning: repeated unprotected exposure to the sun’s ultraviolet rays can cause skin damage and skin cancer. But with so many sunscreens on the market, how can you choose the right one for your child?

For the first time in over 30 years the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has new regulations for sunscreens to help parents choose the proper sunscreen for their family. Changes you will soon see on sunscreen labels include:

- Sunscreen products that protect against all types of sun-induced skin damage will be labeled “Broad Spectrum” and “SPF 15” (or higher) on the front.
- Sunscreen products that are not broad spectrum or that are broad spectrum with SPF values from 2 to 14 will be labeled with a warning that reads: “Skin Cancer/Skin Aging Alert: Spending time in the sun increases your risk of skin cancer and early skin aging. This product has been shown only to help prevent sunburn, not skin cancer or early skin aging.”
- Water resistance claims on the product’s front label must tell how much time a user can expect to get the declared SPF level of protection while swimming or sweating, based on standard testing. Two times will be permitted on labels: 40 minutes or 80 minutes.
- Manufacturers cannot make claims that sunscreens are “waterproof” or “sweatproof” or identify their products as “sunblocks.” Also, sunscreens cannot claim protection immediately on application (for example, “instant protection”) or protection for more than two hours without reapplication, unless they submit data and get approval from FDA.

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What is the Family Advisory Council?

Founded in April 2005, the Family Advisory Council (FAC) of Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children is a group of approximately 20 families and members of the Nemours staff who meet monthly. The FAC is led by Parent Co-Chair Jim Burrows and Staff Co-Chair Ed Woomer. The Council’s family members have experience with the duPont Hospital for Children in both inpatient and outpatient settings and in almost every specialty Nemours offers, providing great insight into the care Nemours delivers. The mission of the FAC is to contribute to the development and enhancement of family-centered care at the duPont Hospital for Children and Nemours Children’s Clinics.

For more information, please call (302) 651-4014.
Do you have a story to share?

Family as Faculty can help you share it. Join Family as Faculty, a subcommittee of the Family Advisory Council. Tell your story as a teaching tool for Nemours staff, both clinical and nonclinical, at New Hire Orientation and various staff meetings.

No one knows your child’s story like you do! As the recipient of care at Nemours, you can help Nemours Associates understand that – no matter what their role – they can make a difference in a child’s life.

Learn more.
Email: FamilyAdvisory@nemours.org.

For sunscreen to do its job, it must be applied correctly. Be sure to:

- Apply sunscreen whenever kids will be in the sun.
- Apply sunscreen about 15 to 30 minutes before kids go outside so that a good layer of protection can form. Don’t forget about lips, hands, ears, feet, shoulders, and behind the neck. Lift up bathing suit straps and apply sunscreen underneath them (in case the straps shift as a child moves).
- Don’t try to stretch out a bottle of sunscreen; apply it generously.
- Reapply sunscreen often, approximately every 2 hours, as recommended by the American Academy of Dermatology. Reapply after a child has been sweating or swimming.
- Apply a water-resistant sunscreen if kids will be around water or swimming. Water reflects and intensifies the sun’s rays, so kids need protection that lasts.

The American Academy of Dermatology recommends that all kids – regardless of their skin tone – wear sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher.

Keep in mind that every child needs extra sun protection. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends that all kids – regardless of their skin tone – wear sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher. Although dark skin has more protective melanin and tans more easily than it burns, remember that tanning is also a sign of sun damage. Dark-skinned kids also can develop painful sunburn.

Sources:
© 1995-2010. The Nemours Foundation/KidsHealth®
U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Nemours Concierge Services Now Available

Nemours is excited to offer concierge services to our patients and families! Personal concierge service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during your in-patient stay. By taking care of the little things – and big ones too – the concierge can make your life easier.

Services include:
- taxi and travel arrangements
- restaurant and meal delivery
- flower and gift suggestions
- household service requests
- dining and hotel suggestions
- interpretation services
- pet services
- errand running*
- ... and more

From home and business services to travel and gifts, consider it done with Nemours Concierge Services. Simply call 533047 or visit them in-person in our hospital’s main lobby near Jazzman’s Café.

*Errand running fees may apply.

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New Lobby Hours

Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children’s new lobby hours are 6 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily. Holiday lobby hours are 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. The lobby doors will be shut and locked during off-hours. Family members, visitors, guests, and all others should enter through the Emergency Department to register and access the hospital during off-hours.
Despite coming late to the party, I joined the FAC in time to participate in the 450,000-square-foot expansion. It felt good to be able to offer suggestions on improvements that may not have already been considered. There were open discussions with the architects and designers on things like location of clinical equipment, room lighting, type of furniture, and efficient use of space. It was like being a part of our own hometown HGTV experience!

Our input from the FAC was then put to the test in a sneak peek event to share our plans with the media. Being a host at that event was a real full-circle moment for me. At times it was hard to revisit the “scenes of the crime” in my mind, but assisting in the design and planning of the expansion has been part of the healing process. My need to give back to Nemours for taking such good care of my daughter and our family has resulted in my paying it forward, thanks to the FAC.

Meeting other FAC members proves we’re not alone. We each have a personal story that can be shared to help ourselves and others in our quest for keeping our children healthy. I’m honored to be a part of this group. I’m impressed that our input really gets heard. Being a parent is the most challenging and rewarding job we have. The FAC is an empowering network of doctors, staff and families coming together on a regular basis to collaborate on how we can build a better future for our children. After all, isn’t that part of our job as parents?

New Family Participation Policy Now in Effect at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children

At Nemours, we believe that patients have the best outcomes when families and staff partner together to provide care. Keeping in line with our focus on patient- and family-centered care, the “Supporting Family Presence and Participation” (SFPP) policy is now in effect. Simply stated, SFPP allows legally responsible adults (usually the parent or guardian) and other identified individuals to stay with a child 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The guidelines are intended to be flexible in order to respond to the diverse and individual needs and preferences of each patient. Situations or circumstances that are unique to any patient and/or family will be given the appropriate consideration by all members of the child’s health care team.

For more information regarding this policy, please contact Ed Woomer at (302) 651-4080.