

# Make a difference in the lives of children battling cancer

## Children battling with cancer

Children diagnosed with cancer and their families face many challenges related to the impact of treatment and adjustments required to manage a severe illness. Treatment can last from months to years. This often translates into long hospital stays, resulting in time away from home, siblings, friends, and school.

Side-effects from the cancer and its treatment may also cause these children to be unwell and inactive. Apart from the treatment and schedule, diet is another essential element to consider during treatment as different nutritional plans are necessary to maintain a healthy weight.

All of these factors can affect a child's development, social, and emotional well-being, with the severity varying from child to child. As such, support is required from multi-disciplinary medical teams to help patients and their families best cope with these evolving adjustments.

## SingHealth Duke-NUS CCF Psychosocial and Supportive Care Programme for Paediatric Oncology

To meet these needs, the CCF Psychosocial and Supportive Care Programme for Paediatric Oncology (CCF PSCP) was officially established to enhance cognitive, emotional, and physical treatment outcomes through timely neuro-psychosocial, rehabilitative, and nutritional care. See Figure 1 for an overview of the programme.

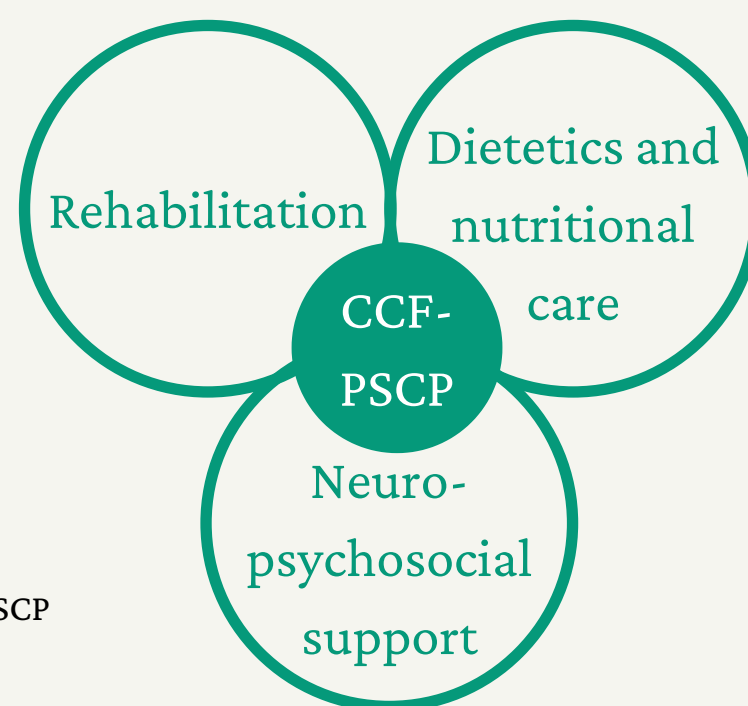


Figure 1. Overview of CCF PSCP

This holistic supportive care programme, led by KK Women's and Children's Hospital, involves a multi-disciplinary team to provide patients with tailored interventions according to their individual needs.

## The story of Rachel\* - a beneficiary of the CCF PSCP

During her second week at kindergarten, Rachel began experiencing pain in her neck and vomiting. She was diagnosed with medulloblastoma – a malignant primary brain tumour – at the base of her skull, subsequently undergoing two neurosurgeries and six weeks of radiotherapy, followed by eight doses of chemotherapy.

With the cancer in remission, Rachel began her journey of transition back to school, with support from the neuropsychologist, occupational therapists, speech therapists and many others. However, as the demands of schooling and psychosocial interaction increased, Rachel experienced greater difficulty keeping up with her peers.

A neuropsychological assessment of her cognitive skills revealed a pattern commonly detected in child survivors of brain disease, and more areas requiring intervention emerged over time.

Fortunately, with ongoing help from her neuropsychologist and family, Rachel is steadily making gains across many intellectual and academic areas. She attends a social skills training programme to help her navigate the challenging social dynamics of adolescence and life transitions, such as the move from primary to secondary school.

**Our support makes a difference. To help more children like Rachel, Learners' Connection will be donating a portion of the proceeds from their Annual Mathlympics in support of the CCF PSCP. On behalf of the beneficiaries, we appeal to you to join us in making a gift in support of the CCF PSCP.**

**Scan the QR code on the right to make a tax-deductible donation today.**

*\*Name changed to protect patient identity*

Thank you for your time and kind consideration. Please stay safe and keep well.

