



Symptom Assessment

At Roger Neilson House the symptom assessment service focuses on reducing the distressing symptoms of the child's illness and/or side effects from treatments. Each family referred to the Palliative Care Team at CHEO has access to all the care and support at Roger Neilson House.

What Can You Expect?

- At your request, a meeting with the Palliative Care nurse and physician to ensure understanding of the concerning symptoms you or your child is observing.
- Admission to Roger Neilson House for assessment and evaluation of those symptoms. (The length of stay will be determined by the severity of symptoms and response to treatment.)
- Palliative Care Team consultation with you, other members of the care team at CHEO and community caregivers. If changes to medications prescribed by other physicians are required, this would only be done after consultation with the prescribing physician.
- Recommendations for a revised plan of care.
- Assessment of your child's response to the revised plan of care before discharge home.
- Discharge instructions that summarize revisions made to the plan of care.
- A follow-up call from the Palliative Care nurse or physician after discharge to provide continued care and support.
- Communication with your child's primary care physician at the time of discharge.

What are the common symptoms that can be assessed?

- Pain
- Feeding intolerance requiring an adjustment in the timing, rate or volume of gastrostomy tube feedings
- Changes in responsiveness that requires observation
- Sleep problems including requiring more or less sleep than usual, disrupted sleep or day-night reversal
- Poorly controlled seizures that might require monitoring while medications are being adjusted
- Constipation – infrequent, large bowel movements or discomfort in passing the bowel movement
- Pressure areas – redness or open areas of the skin over bony prominences
- Spasticity and dystonia – increased muscle tone that causes discomfort and muscle contractions that cause twisting and abnormal postures

If you or your child are concerned about other symptoms, consult with the Palliative Care nurse or physician on call.

How to request an admission for symptom assessment?

- Contact the Palliative Care nurse or physician on call via CHEO Locate and ask for them to be paged
- Contact the Admissions Coordinator at Roger Neilson House

CHEO Locate (for on-call Palliative Care Nurse or Physician), 613-737-6300 ext. 0

Admissions Coordinator, 613-523-6300 ext. 4611 | admissions@RogerNeilsonHouse.ca