After Completion of Therapy (ACT) Clinic

What is the After Completion of Therapy Clinic?

The After Completion of Therapy (ACT) Clinic is for long-term survivors of childhood cancer who have been treated at St. Jude. The goal of the clinic is to help survivors stay healthy. During your check-up, the ACT Clinic staff will talk to you about your progress. They also check for problems that can happen after cancer treatment.

After I am transferred into the ACT Clinic, when will I have my first visit?

You can expect to return to St. Jude one (1) year after your transfer to the ACT Clinic. About 3 months before your visit, you should receive an appointment card. You will also receive a letter that explains important details about your upcoming visit. The letter will give you the dates and times of your screening tests.

What can I expect at my first ACT visit?

A doctor or nurse practitioner will review your past treatment with you. This staff member also will discuss any current problems or concerns you may have. The ACT staff will ask you to fill out a form. Your answers will help them learn more about how you are doing. It also will tell them how your past cancer treatment may be affecting your health. We will do blood tests, X-rays, or other tests, based on your current needs and past treatment. You will also talk to a social worker. This staff member can help with insurance, school, work, or social problems you may have. Based on the type of cancer you had and your past treatment, you may need to visit other specialty clinics.

Who takes care of my medical needs before I come back to St. Jude as an ACT patient?

Before the first ACT Clinic visit, you should contact the clinic where you received your treatment if you develop medical problems that are related to your cancer. The clinic where you received your treatment is also responsible for refilling all cancer-related prescriptions and scheduling outside specialty appointments. For medical problems not related to your cancer, you should always contact a local primary care provider.

After you have had your first appointment in the ACT Clinic, you should always call your local doctor first if you are injured or sick. If your problem is related to your cancer or to a late effect of cancer treatment, your doctor should call the ACT Clinic. Have your local doctor talk with the ACT staff, so we can plan a follow-up visit as soon as possible.

This document is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Our aim is to promote active participation in your care and treatment by providing information and education. Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options should be discussed with your physician.
Do you know... continued

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Who takes care of my medicine refills?

The staff of the clinic that first prescribed your medicines should arrange your refills until you have your first ACT visit. After your first ACT Clinic visit, the ACT staff or an approved St. Jude specialty doctor will take care of all of your cancer-related medicines.

How long will I be an ACT patient?

ACT patients come to St. Jude for checkups one (1) time a year until they are 18 years old or until they have been off therapy for 10 years, whichever comes later. At that time, ACT patients graduate and become St. Jude alumni. The St. Jude Tumor Registry staff contacts St. Jude alumni every year to see how they are doing and to find out if they have any cancer-related late effects.

What if I need to reschedule my ACT Clinic visit?

To change the date of your visit or to check the date, please call 901-495-4680 during clinic hours. The ACT Clinic is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. If you are outside the Memphis area, dial toll-free 1-866-2STJUDE (1-866-278-5833) extension 4680.