

Join Atrium Health Navicent in Observing Childhood Cancer Awareness Month *Cancer is the second leading cause of death among children ages 1 to 14*

MACON, Ga., Sept. 20, 2023 – Pediatric physicians at Atrium Health Navicent Beverly Knight Olson Children’s Hospital encourage the community to join them in observing September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

This month is a time to honor children with cancer, childhood cancer survivors, children who have passed away from cancer, their families, and all of the health care providers, researchers and caregivers who are dedicated to improving the lives of children with cancer.

After accidents, childhood cancer remains the second leading cause of death among children ages 1 to 14, according to the American Cancer Society (ACS). The most common types of cancer diagnosed in children ages 0 to 14 years are leukemias, brain and other central nervous system tumors, and lymphomas.

For children coping with cancer in central and south Georgia, [Atrium Health Navicent Children's Care Pediatric Oncology](#) offers world-class cancer care close to home. The family-oriented pediatric oncology program is able to diagnose and treat various pediatric cancers including leukemias, lymphomas, tumors of the liver, kidneys, bone, muscle and nerve tissue. Affiliated with the Children’s Oncology Group, Atrium Health Navicent Beverly Knight Olson Children’s Hospital is able to offer the latest in clinical trials, closer to home.

[Atrium Health Navicent HOPE for Kids](#) — which stands for Hematology Oncology Place of Excellence for Kids — offers outpatient clinic services for children with cancer and blood disorders. The center believes that care for complicated medical conditions such as cancer should be delivered in a comfortable environment close to home. The facility is equipped with an onsite laboratory, infusion center, educational library, playrooms as well as child life specialists and family therapists.

Some of the services offered at HOPE for Kids include:

- Medical play, supported by certified child life specialists, to help patients become familiar with medical equipment and procedures such as blood draws and port-a-cath accesses
- Support and distraction to help children cope during blood draws and port-a-cath accesses
- Diagnostic teaching to help patients understand cancer and blood disorders on their developmental level
- Sibling support to help siblings cope with having a brother or sister with a chronic illness
- Normalization activities such as video games and arts and crafts to help patients and families feel comfortable while receiving treatments

Additional inpatient services, including inpatient hospital care, surgery, pathology, pharmacy, radiology and radiation oncology, sedation, and care provided by chemotherapy certified nurses, is available on the same campus at Atrium Health Navicent Beverly Knight Olson Children’s Hospital.

The care team at HOPE for Kids believes that special moments are meant to be celebrated. When a child completes cancer treatment, they are treated to a special “bell ringing celebration” to mark the occasion! This celebration, which is shared with doctors, nurses, family and friends, signifies their victory and progression to post-treatment life.

“Excellent pediatric cancer care is available close to home, and with all the services offered at Atrium Health Navicent Beverly Knight Olson Children’s Hospital, central and south Georgia’s only dedicated pediatric hospital,” said Dr. Abigail Cruz, an Atrium Health Navicent pediatric oncologist and hematologist. “We recognize that children aren’t just tiny adults.

We offer specialized care for children, tailored to their bodies and their needs. Children and their families are at the center of everything we do, from diagnosis to the amazing bell-ringing celebrations we share at the end of treatment.”

For more information about HOPE for Kids, call 478-633-2694. For help finding a doctor, or to learn more about children’s services, visit childrenshospitalnh.org

About Atrium Health Navicent

Atrium Health Navicent is the leading provider of health care in central and south Georgia and is committed to its mission of elevating health and well-being through compassionate care. Atrium Health Navicent is part of [Advocate Health](#), which is headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, and is the third-largest nonprofit health system in the United States, created from the combination of Atrium Health and Advocate Aurora Health. Atrium Health Navicent provides high-quality, personalized care in 53 specialties at more than 50 facilities throughout the region. As part of the largest, integrated, nonprofit health system in the Southeast, it is also able to tap into some of the nation’s leading medical experts and specialists with Atrium Health, allowing it to provide the best care close to home – including advanced innovations in virtual medicine and care. Throughout its 125-year history in the community, Atrium Health Navicent has remained dedicated to enhancing health and wellness for individuals throughout the region through nationally recognized quality care, community health initiatives and collaborative partnerships. It is also one of the leading teaching hospitals in the region, helping to ensure viability for rural health care for the next generation. For more information, please visit www.NavicentHealth.org.

About Advocate Health

[Advocate Health](#) is the third-largest nonprofit integrated health system in the United States – created from the combination of Advocate Aurora Health and [Atrium Health](#). Providing care under the names [Advocate Health Care](#) in Illinois, Atrium Health in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, and [Aurora Health Care](#) in Wisconsin, Advocate Health is a national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience and value-based care, with [Wake Forest University School of Medicine](#) serving as the academic core of the enterprise. Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, Advocate Health serves nearly 6 million patients and is engaged in hundreds of clinical trials and research studies. It is nationally recognized for its expertise in cardiology, neurosciences, oncology, pediatrics and rehabilitation, as well as organ transplants, burn treatments and specialized musculoskeletal programs. Advocate Health employs nearly 150,000 team members across 67 hospitals and over 1,000 care locations and offers one of the nation’s largest graduate medical education programs with over 2,000 residents and fellows across more than 200 programs. Committed to equitable care for all, Advocate Health provides nearly \$5 billion in annual community benefits.

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