**Glossary**

**Absolute Neutrophil Count (ANC)** -- Also called "absolute granulocyte count" — amount of white blood cells present in the blood that are able to fight infection.

**Allogeneic Transplant** — A transplant using a human donor who has bone marrow that is a genetic match to the recipient.

**Antibiotics** — A group of medicines used to prevent or treat infections.

**Antibody** — A protein that helps the body fight foreign substances (antigens) in the body, such as bacteria, fungi and viruses.

**Antigens** — A foreign substance that stimulates the formation of antibodies in the body.

**Apheresis** — A procedure to separate and remove certain types of blood cells. Blood is removed from a patient, sent through a special machine (where cells are separated and some are removed) and the remainder are returned to the patient.

**Aplastic Anemia** — A blood disorder in which the bone marrow is not producing enough red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets.

**Aspiration (of marrow)** — The removal of marrow from the cavities (holes) in large bones by suction through a needle.

**Autologous Transplant** — A transplant in which a patient's own blood stem cells are collected, frozen and then returned to the patient at a later date.

**Blood Cells** — Cells formed in the bone marrow that make up blood.

**Red Blood Cells** - (erythrocytes; RBCs) - Cells that carry oxygen throughout the body (measured by the hematocrit or HCT).

**White Blood Cells** - Cells that help the body fight foreign substances; Neutrophils (ANC) are the front line of defense against infections.
Neutrophils are the main infection fighting cell in our body.

**Platelets** - Cells that help form clots. This can stop or prevent bleeding.

**Bone Marrow Harvest** — A procedure in which bone marrow is taken from the pelvic bone (hip area) for use in a transplant.

**Bone Marrow Transplant** — A process in which a patient’s bone marrow is destroyed by chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy and then replaced by previously harvested stem cells from a donor or the patient.

**Central Line Catheter** — Semi-permanent catheter (tube) that is inserted into the large blood vessels that enter into the heart. It can stay in your child's body for many weeks - months often.

**Chemotherapy** — Drugs used to treat cancer, either by destroying abnormal (cancer) cells or by slowing their growth.

**Complete Blood Count** — A blood test that determines the number of red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets in the blood.

**Conditioning** — A combination of chemotherapy drugs, and sometimes radiation, given a few days prior to transplant to eliminate cancer cells and destroy the immune system.

**Cytomegalovirus** — A virus that can cause flu-like symptoms in patients with normal immunity, and more severe problems (lung infections, liver problems and intestinal problems) in patients with suppressed immune systems.

**DMSO** — A preservative used in the freezing of marrow and blood stem cells.

**Engraftment** — Growth of transplanted (donor) stem cells in the patient's (recipient's) marrow spaces.

**Granulocyte** — One of the major groups of white blood cells. Includes three types of cells: neutrophils (segs and bands), eosinophils and basophils.
Graft — The infused or transplanted bone marrow and blood stem cells.

Growth Factor (Colony Stimulating Factor) — An injectable drug used to stimulate the development of blood cells (Leukine®, Neupogen®, Filgrastim, Mozobil®).

Harvesting — Term used for the collection of stem cells from the bone marrow or peripheral blood.

Hematology — A division of medicine that studies and treats diseases of the blood and blood-forming tissues.

Herpes Simplex — A virus that can produce small, painful, fluid-filled blisters on the skin and mucous membranes. Very common in transplant patients.

Herpes Zoster — A virus that can produce shingles (painful skin eruptions that follow the underlying nerve routes inflamed by the virus).

Hemorrhage — A general term for a large loss of blood brought about by injury to blood vessels or by a lack of necessary cells (platelets) to clot blood.

Hyperalimentation — See Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN).

Immunoglobulin — Proteins made by the body that attack infections. They can be supplemented by intravenous infusion, but in rare cases may be given orally.

Immunosuppression — A state of decreased immunity or a lowering of the body’s immune response. This can occur after receiving chemotherapy or when taking specific medications that prevent or treat graft versus host disease.

Intravenous — Within or through a vein.

Irradiation — High-energy rays used to kill cells before or during transplant.

Leukocytes — A general term for all the types of white blood cells.

Lymphocytes — A type of white blood cell. B-lymphocytes make antibodies
against bacteria. T-lymphocytes attack virus infected cells directly.

**Lymph Node** — A gland in the body that produces lymph (the clear fluid that circulates through the body and contains white blood cells and antibodies).

**Lymphoma** — Cancer of the lymph nodes.

**Malignant** — Cancerous; abnormal growth of cells.

**Microbial** — Minute forms of life such as bacteria, fungi, or viruses.

**Mucositis** — Inflammation of the mucous membranes in the lining of the mouth and intestinal tract

**Neutropenia** — A lack of neutrophils.

**Neutrophil** — A type of white blood cells that fights bacteria (also called segs and bands).

**Oncology** — The study of treatment of cancer.

**Platelets** — Blood cells that promote blood clotting.

**Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Harvest** — A procedure in which stem cells are collected from the circulating blood for use in a transplant.

**Petechiae** — Small red spots under the skin caused by a low platelet count.

**Protocol** — A precisely timed and organized approach to treatment of disease.

**Relapse** — The reappearance of a disease after a period of remission.

**Remission** — The decrease or disappearance of a disease and its symptoms.

**Stem Cells** — Parent or seed cells from the bone marrow or peripheral blood that are able to produce all types of blood cells.
**Syngeneic Transplant** — Transplant in which the donor is an identical twin.

**Transfusion** — The infusion of a product derived from blood cells, typically red blood cells or platelets.

**Total Parenteral Nutrition** — Intravenous nutrition consisting of IV fluids high in calories and essential nutrients.

**Titer** — A blood test that assesses the levels of antibodies against various germs, such as bacteria or viruses.

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**For more information and other patient and family resources, visit**


Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only and is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Talk with your doctor if you have Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options.

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Last Revised 01-2013