



Inpatient Family Letter

March 4, 2025

News & Resources for You

Workshop for Inpatient Families – “Advocating for Safety: Clients and Families as Partners”

Join our workshop to connect with other families and learn how to support your child’s safety. This workshop will be held in the learning lab in 3E160. Refreshments will be provided. Please register by clicking on the QR code to the right or at the following link: [EventBrite - Advocating for Safety: Client and Families as Partners](#)



If you have any questions, please email Sarah Van Oosten at svanoosten@hollandbloorview.ca

Capes for Kids Campaign: February 28 to March 7, 2025



ZAP! BANG! KAPOW! Capes for Kids 2025 is here! We would be so thrilled if you’d consider joining us in our efforts to raise both funds and awareness for Holland Bloorview.

Capes for Kids is a FUN and engaging way to get your friends and family, colleagues and members of your community to support the place that is making such a difference in the life of your young loved one, currently an inpatient at Holland Bloorview.

Please reach out to Candy at ckeillor@hollandbloorview.ca or (437) 243-3761 if you need support or go online at capesforkids.ca and select the Register Today green button to get started.

Free concert by Voices Rock Canada choir!



Stop by the Coriat Atrium on Monday, March 3rd at 7:00pm for a free concert by Voices Rock Canada! The choir is raising money in support of our annual Capes for Kids campaign. Donations will be accepted but are not mandatory or expected.

If you have any questions, please email Shelby Foster at sfoster@hollandbloorview.ca

Parenting and Disability: Navigating pregnancy, parenting and support networks



The Bloorview Research Institute's ProFILE Lab is pleased to hold a virtual seminar, *Parenting and Disability: Navigating Pregnancy, Parenting and Support Networks*, on March 4th, from 3pm to 4 pm.

This webinar examines the unique experiences, challenges, and supports available to people with disabilities as they navigate pregnancy and parenting. As part of the "Knowledge Network of Expertise in Disability & Sexuality" series, this session emphasizes the importance of equitable access to information, affirming care, and peer support.

Attendees will gain insights from experts dedicated to promoting inclusive and accessible approaches to parenting and pregnancy for people with disabilities.

WHAT: Parenting and Disability: Navigating Pregnancy, Parenting and Support Networks

WHEN: March 4th, 3 to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Virtual (Zoom Webinar)

Register for this free webinar [now](#), or:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/hollandbloorviewkidsrehabilitationhospital1/1588220>

KidSights membership

Holland Bloorview is proud to be an inaugural Canadian member of the **KidSights™** Data Consortium.

Created in 2023 by **Gillette Children's**, a specialized pediatric children's hospital based in Minnesota, U.S., KidSights is a unique data consortium created to share de-identified, administrative, clinical and demographic data with other member children's hospitals, industry and researchers to accelerate knowledge, innovation and new discoveries. The consortium will also advance the health and wellbeing of children and youth with disabilities and developmental differences as well as rare genetic conditions. Gillette Children's is the first member of KidSights.

As a KidSights member, Holland Bloorview can:

- fuel innovations in areas like developing specialized equipment, technology and devices that address the needs of children with disabilities and developmental differences;
- access to large-scale datasets in pediatric disability to better understand and design more effective treatments and interventions;
- use data to identify gaps in the system or populations whose needs are not being met to ensure clients and families are getting the care they need and deserve; and
- be part of a global network of excellence with a shared goal to enable more meaningful and health futures for children and youth.

How KidSights works

Using secure, privacy-enhanced technology, KidSights can access de-identified, real-world clinical health data from member hospitals and combine it with de-identified datasets from other members.

These de-identified datasets can then be shared with authorized commercial innovators (pharmaceuticals, medical device companies, early-stage startups) and researchers around the world

to advance research and accelerate new products, medical treatments, devices and drugs – all with the goal to advance the health and wellbeing of clients with complex needs.



Next steps






Holland Bloorview plans to share its de-identified data with KidSights in the summer of 2025. Prior to sharing the data, all active clients and families will receive a letter about six weeks in advance with the opportunity to opt-out. For more details, please visit this data-sharing [webpage](#) or [Data sharing member - Kidsights | Holland Bloorview](#)



Client and Family Centred Care Updates

Inpatient Caregivers’ Coffee Hour

Inpatient caregivers are invited to drop by the Family Resource Centre (main floor, off the Atrium) on Tuesdays from 11:00am to 12:00pm for an hour of coffee, colouring and connection. This is a great opportunity to connect with other inpatient caregivers and meet one of our Family Mentors. This event is free, and no registration is required.

	<p>Inpatient unit reminders</p> <p>Gatherings: A friendly reminder that clients and families are not permitted to use staff meeting rooms for gatherings. Family visits with more than two people must occur off the unit in non-client care areas (i.e. cafeteria, Atrium, Spiral Garden or the front courtyard depending on the circumstance. Such as weather conditions or hospital-wide programming.</p> <p>As clients are often participating in therapy programs and school during the day, visits from siblings and other visitors are strongly recommended to take place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm Monday to Friday • 10:00 am to 9:00 pm Saturday, Sunday and Statutory holidays <p>All visiting hours end at 9:00 pm.</p> <p>Lanyards: For security reasons, all individuals visiting inpatient clients, as well as all inpatient caregivers, must wear hospital-issued identification, such as the red or black lanyards and ID badges, at all times when on hospital property. Clients must also wear their ID wristband at all times. Thank you for your cooperation</p>
	<p>Semi-private spaces designated for those breastfeeding and chestfeeding onsite</p> <p>Holland Bloorview is a breast/chestfeeding-friendly facility. Families, staff and visitors are welcome to breastfeed, chestfeed and/or express milk any time and anywhere while onsite.</p> <p>As part of a recent initiative to develop a culture of safety and education around breast/chestfeeding at Holland Bloorview, we have two new spaces designated for families, staff and visitors to nurse in a semi-private, quieter environment.</p>

	<p>Spaces are located in The Grocery Foundation Resource Centre on the 1st floor and on the 2nd floor, west wing, behind registration. Both spaces include specialty nursing chairs with high backs for additional privacy.</p> <p>To learn more about this initiative and access an FAQ, visit our website at https://bit.ly/434s5LH</p>
	<p>Join the BLOOM community for resources on parenting children with disabilities</p> <p>Want to learn about parenting children with disabilities? Sign up for Holland Bloorview's monthly BLOOM e-letter. It combines real family stories and the best expert advice with the latest news and opinion on disability.</p>
	<p>Online booking system for Family Accommodations</p> <p>Family Accommodations has an updated webpage (https://bit.ly/3sO0woj) and a new user-friendly online booking system. It's designed to offer a seamless experience for families and guests, provide easy access to details around booking requirements and payment options and enable clients and families to book accommodations online.</p>
	<p>Pro bono Triage Lawyer</p> <p>Client families may access the hospital's Pro Bono Triage Lawyer, Rosemary Masemann. Our triage lawyer offers free and confidential legal advice and resources around immigration issues, job protection and workplace accommodation, estate planning, housing law, school accommodations and more. Families can reach out to her via email at any time: rmasemann@hollandbloorview.ca to set up a consultation or can connect through their social worker. More information about these legal services can be found on our hospital website: https://hollandbloorview.ca/our-services/family-workshops-resources/onsite-legal-program</p>
	<p>Family support specialists</p> <p>Inpatient caregivers can connect with a family support specialist by e-mailing resourcecentre@hollandbloorview.ca to explore relevant mental health resources at our hospital and in the community.</p>
	<p>Family Mentor Program</p> <p>The Family Mentor Program can connect you with a trained peer support volunteer who has experience as a Holland Bloorview caregiver. They can provide you with social support, a listening ear, and help you find the resources you need during this challenging time. To learn more about this program and how you can be matched to a mentor, go to: www.hollandbloorview.ca/familymentor</p>

 <p>HB Family Support Network</p>	<p>HB Family Support Network</p> <p>This is a private, moderated Facebook group designed for families and caregivers of kids and youth who currently receive or have received services from Holland Bloorview. The group aims to provide helpful resources and a sense of community in a supportive online space. Become a member today: https://www.facebook.com/groups/hbfamilysupportnetwork. Please be sure to answer all group questions when submitting your membership request.</p>
	<p>On February 7th, Holland Bloorview completed an upgrade to our Rogers Guest internet service. We installed new wireless access points throughout the hospital, increasing the total number by 70%. Many of the new access points have been installed in our 3rd floor inpatient areas. We are confident this upgrade will result in a much better guest internet experience for Holland Bloorview clients and families.</p>

Our inpatient care team and managers are always available to answer your questions, address concerns, or listen to your ideas about how we can continue to improve our communication with you.

- **Rahim Kurji**, clinical operations manager for the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Team (BIRT)
rkurji@hollandbloorview.ca
or 416 425-6220 ext. 3139
- **Michelle Balkaran**, clinical operations manager for Complex Continuing Care (CCC)
mbalkaran@hollandbloorview.ca
or 416 425-6220 ext. 6028
- **Marcia Sivilotti**, clinical operations manager for Specialized Orthopedic and Developmental Rehab (SODR)
msivilotti@hollandbloorview.ca
or 416 425-6220 ext. 6338

Questions, comments, concerns

Feedback or ideas about your experience at the hospital may be shared with Kimberley Siu-Chong, client and family relations facilitator at (416) 753-6084 or feedback@hollandbloorview.ca.

Read this letter online at HollandBloorview.ca/InpatientLetter.



Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

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A teaching hospital fully affiliated with the University of Toronto