Many private health insurance policies offer benefits for this type of care if provided by a licensed and certified provider, such as BJC Pediatric Palliative Care. Medicare and Medicaid cover the cost of palliative home care or BJC Hospice services under home health when the patient meets the admission criteria. Private health insurance plans with a home health benefit will provide palliative care coverage under the home health benefit, if home health is a covered service and BJC is a provider. Hospice services are covered when Medicaid or the insurance of choice covers hospice services.

For more information on the BJC Wings pediatric palliative home care and hospice program, call 314.872.5050 or visit bjchospice.org.

Wings

The Wings program is a home-based pediatric program in the St. Louis area serving children and their families while they cope with an acute, chronic or terminal illness. Care is provided on an intermittent visit basis by a team of specialized pediatric staff including:

• Registered nurse/case coordinator
• Social worker
• Chaplain
• Expressive therapist
• Music therapist
• Volunteers
• Medical director, board certified in pediatric palliative care

The same team can provide palliative home care or hospice care for children and their families, providing a seamless transition from one to the other, if needed.

BJC Hospice is licensed by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and Illinois Department of Public Health, certified by Medicare and Medicaid and accredited by The Joint Commission.

For more information on BJC Hospice, call 314.872.5050 or visit bjchospice.org.
How does a child qualify for Wings?

A child may qualify for the BJC Wings pediatric palliative care or hospice programs if he/she:

- Has an acute or chronic illness requiring nursing visits in the home
- Has a terminal illness
- Has complex medical care requiring frequent assessments and adjustments
- Prefers to remain at home and out of the hospital as much as possible
- Is not recovering as rapidly with changes in condition

Wings Pediatric Palliative Care Program

The Wings pediatric palliative care program provides support in the home for families whose children have an acute or chronic illness requiring intermittent nursing visits. Our nurses have extensive experience with complex medical regimens including:

- Feeding tubes
- Infusion therapy
- Chemotherapy
- Respiratory interventions
- Wound care

Pediatric nurses are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to answer any questions about your child’s care and can make after-hours visits for urgent needs.

The Wings specialized pediatric staff are available on an as-needed basis to support the entire family. If a child’s condition becomes terminal, the same team of specialized pediatric staff will remain with the child, providing an almost seamless transition to hospice care.

Wings Pediatric Hospice Program

The Wings pediatric hospice program focuses on children with a terminal illness, to bring peace and comfort to the child and family by not only managing physical symptoms, but by providing psychosocial and spiritual support for families during these last moments. The Wings hospice team provides a variety of activities, information, resources and services that can help the families celebrate life and make memories. Care is individualized for each family and the Wings medical director is available to direct care for the child or to assist the child’s own physician in managing care.

The Wings team provides:

- Coordination of complex medical care, including pain and symptom management, medication management and nutrition
- Education for families enabling them to care for their child at home instead of in the hospital
- Registered nurse on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for answering questions or making after-hours visits for urgent needs
- Psychosocial, spiritual and practical support for the family during their child’s illness
- Coordination of medical equipment and home infusion needs
- Expressive and music therapists who use music, art, writing and play to help children and siblings cope with the challenges that illness brings to the entire family
- Discharge planning assistance to ensure a smooth transition home from the hospital
- Phone support to outside hospices when a child lives outside our service area
- Volunteers that can help with child care, errands or household tasks as well as pet therapy
- Support for school personnel to enable children not only to attend school when possible but also to stay connected with teachers and classmates
- Bereavement support for the entire family in response to the illness

Wings on Wheels

Mobile expressive and music therapy program

Wings on Wheels (WOW) was created to extend expressive and music therapy into the community. It is offered at no charge to community groups and families. Two brightly colored vehicles are ready to roll, going where they are needed — schools, scouts, churches, families and neighborhoods — to connect our program to children and families in the metro St. Louis area and surrounding counties in Illinois.

A licensed professional counselor and board certified music therapists lead creative activities to help children explore their thoughts and feelings, celebrate life and honor relationships.

WHEN TO CALL WOW:

- An extended school absence due to illness to help children connect with one another
- Unexpected absence or loss of a parent, sibling, classmate, teacher, coach, friend, or teammate within a child’s life and community
- When there is a need to help support children in their loss and grief
- When there is a community or personal disaster or tragedy impacting children and their families

For more information on WOW, call 314-953-1660 or email wingsonwheels@bjc.org.

Bijou Hospice Grief Camps and Retreats

Camps and retreats are offered at no cost to participants due to generous donations from the community.

Stepping Stones

A weekend grief camp for children ages 6-12 who have experienced the loss of a family member or friend.

Labyrinth

A one-day grief retreat for parents who have experienced the loss of a child at any age.

Weavings

A one-day grief retreat for couples who have experienced the loss of a child at any age.

Daybreak

A one-day grief retreat for students who have experienced the loss of a family member or friend.

Camps and retreats are offered at no cost to participants due to generous donations from the community.

Register to call 314.953.1676 or email griefsupport@bjc.org.