



WELCOME TO THE

Brain Tumor Center

Welcome to the Brain Tumor Center

Many families who anticipate coming to the Brain Tumor Center have questions about their visit. The goal of this guide is to provide you with helpful information such as:

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Our team is available to speak with you further if you have questions or concerns about your specific travel plans, clinical care, or other topics. Please contact us at **617-355-0462**.

Who we are

The [Brain Tumor Center](#) at Boston Children's Hospital and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is the leading brain tumor program for children diagnosed with tumors of the [brain](#) and [spinal cord](#). We specialize in treating the most complex and challenging brain tumor cases with care from a team of highly skilled clinicians with extensive experience treating these conditions.

Our mission is to provide our patients with the most advanced, comprehensive, and high-quality care available while pursuing scientific advancements that will establish novel treatments and cures for our patients.

Meet our team

At the Brain Tumor Center, your child will benefit from the expertise of a diverse team of medical professionals dedicated to pediatric neuro-oncology. Our team includes:

- Neurosurgeons
- Neuro-oncologists
- Neurologists
- Radiation oncologists
- Neuropathologists
- Neuroradiologists
- Neuroendocrinologists
- Neuro-ophthalmologists
- Advanced practice practitioners
- Specialized neuroscience nurses
- Other subspecialists

Together, we provide comprehensive, seamless care. Your child will be assigned a specialist in each relevant discipline as a permanent contact person. These specialists bring unique skills and perspectives to the table, ensuring that your child receives the best possible care from diagnosis through survivorship.

In addition to our medical team, our compassionate social workers and psychosocial providers play a vital role in providing support and assistance to your family. They offer therapeutic and psychosocial support and guidance, helping you navigate the challenges of your child's diagnosis and treatment. Whether you have questions about medical procedures, need assistance accessing support services, or simply need someone to talk to, we are here to help.

Brain Tumor Center staff

Leadership

[Lissa Baird, MD](#)

Co-director, Brain Tumor Center

[Mariella G. Filbin, MD, PhD](#)

Co-director, Brain Tumor Center

Research director, Pediatric Neuro-Oncology

[Susan Chi, MD](#)

Clinical director, Pediatric Neuro-Oncology

[Nicole Ullrich, MD, PhD](#)

Director, Neurologic Neuro-Oncology

[Sanda Alexandrescu, MD](#)

Director, Neuropathology

[Daphne Haas-Kogan, MD, MBA, FASTRO, FACR](#)

Chief, Enterprise Radiation Oncology — Mass General Brigham

Chair, Department of Radiation Oncology — Massachusetts General Hospital,

Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital

Meet our full team.



What to expect

If your child is here for observation

Tumor monitoring typically involves periodic [MRI scans](#), with the frequency tailored to factors like tumor type, location, and treatment plan. Scan intervals can vary from every few months for aggressive tumors to annually for stable ones. These scans help assess your child's response to treatment and detect any changes, guiding adjustments to the treatment plan as necessary.

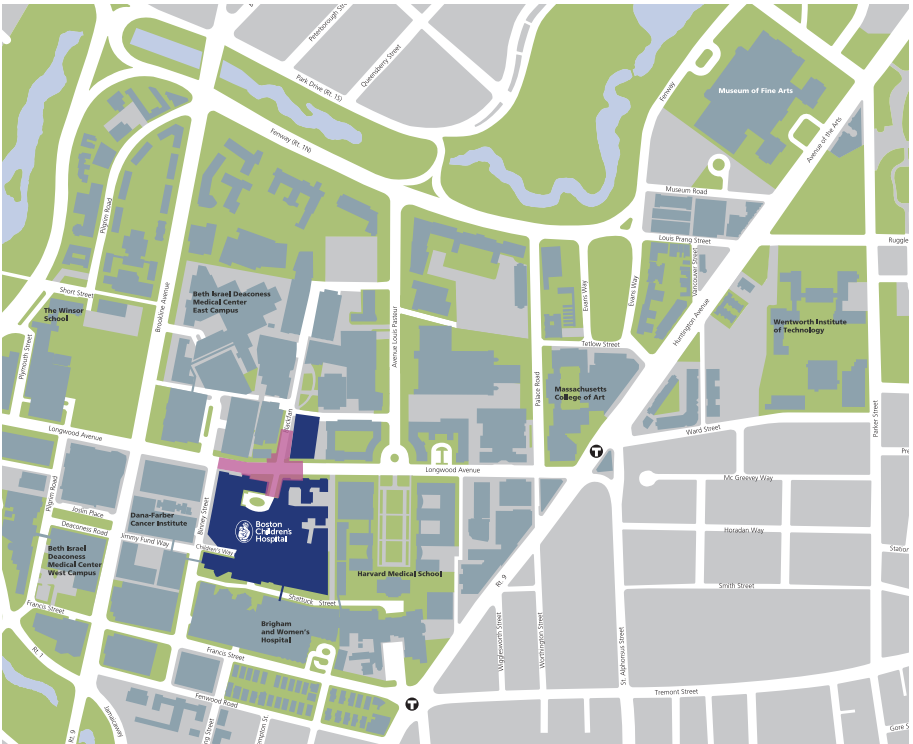
If your child is here for surgery

- Once you meet with your child's surgeon to review imaging scans and discuss the surgery plan, you'll schedule a pre-operative clinic appointment for lab work and an anesthesia evaluation.
- While your child is recovering from surgery, you may meet other members of the Brain Tumor Center team, such as neuro-oncologists, neurologists, ophthalmologists, and endocrinologists. We'll set up the appropriate next steps in your child's care plan as we review the pathology and MRI results.
- We'll schedule a post-operative appointment with a Brain Tumor Center nurse practitioner for approximately four weeks after surgery, as well as additional subspecialty appointments as directed.
- We'll give you contact numbers before you leave in case you need to reach us before your post-op visit.

If your child is here for treatment

Every journey through brain tumor treatment is different and is individualized to your child's needs. Your child's care team is dedicated to helping you navigate these options. We understand the importance of minimizing side effects and maximizing effectiveness, and we will work closely with you to address any concerns and answer any questions you may have along the way. Common treatment options include surgery, [chemotherapy](#) (with or without [stem cell transplant](#)), [radiation therapy](#), targeted inhibitor therapy, and possibly a clinical trial. We offer these approaches through the Brain Tumor Center.

Map of the Longwood Medical Area



Support services

The [Hale Family Center for Families](#) supports patient families throughout your experience at Boston Children's. The Center is located in the main lobby of Boston Children's at 300 Longwood Avenue in Boston and offers resources such as:

- **Hospitality services** – wayfinding help, inpatient caregiver laundry services, notary services, and caregiver breastfeeding spaces
- **Communication support** – access to computers, printers, device-charging stations, conference rooms, and private telephone rooms
- **Wellness offerings** – Reiki and massage for inpatient caregivers, creative arts workshops, caregiver coffee hours, and more
- **Parking and local lodging support** – inpatient need-based parking programs and support for hospital-based housing programs and community partners

We encourage you to connect with your social worker and a child life specialist to explore these resources and get answers to questions about referrals for music therapy, tutoring, and visits from our Pawprints therapy dogs while your child is an inpatient.

Contact us

Brain Tumor Center main line:	617-355-0462
Neurosurgery general line:	617-355-6008
Neurology main line:	617-355-6388
Hale Family Center for Families:	617-355-6279
Patient Financial Services:	617-355-3397
Center for Neuro-oncology:	877-442-3324

MyChildren's Patient Portal

We also communicate with our patient families through the MyChildren's Patient Portal. Please sign up [here](#) to create an account and schedule appointments, request refills, and ask nonurgent questions.



Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute



Boston
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