



tree of
HOPE

*The fundraising charity supporting
children's healthcare needs*

Suitable Treatment, Therapy and Equipment Policy

Tree of Hope offers a very flexible service to families, and will consider each request for treatment, therapy and equipment on a case by case basis. However, it is very important to note that we are fundraising experts and do not give advice regarding treatments, so it is imperative that parents look closely at the suitability of all interventions they wish to access for their children prior to making any bookings or arrangements.

There are thousands of treatments and therapies offered throughout the world, some of which have little to no evidence basis. We recognise that every child is different and can respond to interventions in different ways, and what works for one may not work for another. Your child's safety, health and wellbeing is the most important thing, and it is key that in-depth medical advice is sought and research conducted before making any arrangements. Additionally, we ask that you look closely at the credentials of any medical professional offering treatment. If it is a doctor, do they have a GMC (General Medical Council) registration or the international equivalent? Are they registered with a governing body like the HCPC (Health and care professionals council)? Have they ever been struck off? All this information is readily available online, and if you have any concerns regarding a medical professional, please report them to us and the relevant authorities.

If you are considering treatment abroad for your child, we recommend you ask the following questions of the provider:

1. Does the clinic transfer patients to hospital should there be any issues arising from the treatment?
2. If hospital transfer is necessary, what method will the clinic use to action this? i.e does the clinic have an ambulance on standby for such issues?
3. How far away is the nearest hospital?
4. What is the clinic's policy on medical negligence?
5. Does the clinic have an Emergency Evacuation (return to the UK) policy in case of natural disasters, sudden political unrest etc?
6. Will the clinic act on your behalf if you need to rearrange your return flights, or if your child is required to stay for an additional length of time?
7. Will the clinic cover any medical costs associated with potential issues arising from treatment?
8. Who are the clinic's insurers? How far does their policy stretch in terms of any care your child may require?

[These are suggested questions. It is obviously your choice whether or not to pose them to the clinic/hospital and/or your insurers. It is our policy at Tree of Hope to be transparent on all levels, and to encourage our families to seek this transparency from any organisations associated with their child's treatment and care.]

Tree of Hope will **not** support the use of charitable funds for chelation therapy which has been shown to cause harm to some patients.

If you wish to access equipment which is not specifically designed for children with a disability or illness, we will require a letter of recommendation from a healthcare professional involved in your child's care, this can be a physiotherapist, nurse or doctor.