Make-A-Wish®
Are We Missing Eligible Patients?

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Panel Members
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Learning Objectives
• Gain a thorough overview of Make-A-Wish’s mission, eligibility criteria, and referral and wish process.
• Gain a better understanding of the crucial impact that a wish can have on each child’s healing experience based on a recent national impact study.
• Learn how medical staff can make a difference by identifying children whose conditions meet our eligibility criteria and making referrals to our program.

Our mission
Together, we create life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses.

Our vision
To grant the wish of every eligible child.

Our values
Child Focus: We always put wish kids first.
Integrity: We are honest, transparent & respectful.
Impact: We deliver life-changing work.
Community: We are a diverse group of people working together toward a common goal.

Impact of a Wish: Physical Health
89% of nurses, doctors, social workers and Child Life Specialists (combined) believe the wish can influence physical health.
74% of parents observed that the wish marked a turning point in their child’s response to treatment.
97% of wish families and 96% of health professionals observed improved emotional health.
81% of parents observed increased treatment compliance, and 58% of health professionals observed this in a recent wish child.

Impact of a Wish: Emotional Health
99% of parents observed increased feelings of happiness; 96% of parents said the wish strengthened their families.
92% of parents observed an empowerment of the child’s ability to make decisions in their lives.
85% of parents observed a decrease in their children’s anxieties or fears.
35% of parents observed a reduction in fear and anxiety among wish kids siblings.

Eligibility
Meet the age requirement of between 2 ½ and 18 years old at the time of referral.
Diagnosed with a critical illness at the time of referral (i.e. progressive, degenerative, or malignant).
Has not received a previous wish from another wish granting organization.
Common Misconceptions

- "My child isn’t at the end of life so he/she doesn’t need a wish."
- "We can afford to pay for a trip or experience on our own."
- "I don’t want my child to take the place of a child who is more sick."

What conditions qualify for a wish?

- Leukemia
- Tethered cord syndrome

WISH TYPES

- I wish to go
- I wish to see
- I wish to have
- I wish to be

Referral and Part A Forms