



Foster Care Support Clinic Facts

What is the Foster Care Support Clinic?

The Foster Care Support Clinic (FCSC) is a medical home serving medically complex and/or high risk children who have an open DSS case (Foster Care or CPS) or who have been adopted. The Clinic is a partnership between the SC Department of Social Services (DSS) and MUSC Children's Hospital.

What benefits can the FCSC give my child?

- Primary medical care including well child check-ups and sick visits provided by a full time Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in coordination with the Pediatric Primary Care Physicians
- Coordination of sub-specialty medical visits, PT, OT, and ST services
- Interdisciplinary care conferences as indicated by child's medical complexity
- Counseling services using evidence-based treatments
- Therapeutic support groups for children and foster parents
- Individual and group training classes provided free of charge for foster parents, caregivers, and DSS staff

The Foster Care Support Clinic Staff

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To reach the clinic, call (843) 876-7023

Goals of Care and Expectations of Those Individuals Caring for a Child in Foster Care

Your involvement is essential. The team works closely with you to ensure that your child's health care needs are met.

The FCSC Staff Will:

- Provide evidence based primary care, including behavioral medication management in conjunction with child psychiatry
- Provide access to appointments as soon as possible, including same-day sick visits
- Provide follow up and referral coordination

As a parent you have the following responsibilities:

- To participate in the planning of your child's care
- To support the treatment plan
- To notify the team of changes in your child's health
- To share any ideas you have to improve your child's care
- Depending on your child's medical complexity, you may be asked to attend a meeting several times a year to review your child's treatment plan. This meeting is called the Interdisciplinary Treatment Team (ITT) meeting.

Appointment Policies:

Intake Appointments: To be scheduled as soon as possible when a child enters foster care. Referral form should be completed and medication bottles brought to the appointment.

Follow-up Intake: All children will be scheduled for a follow up appointment 4-6 weeks after their intake appointment. This allows the foster parent and case worker time to observe the child, for the child to settle into their new environment, and for the FCSC and DSS staff to obtain any additional records.

Foster parents and case-workers are vital in the assessment of a foster care child. In order for us to provide the best care for your foster child, a foster parent, group home staff, or DSS worker MUST accompany a FCSC patient to the following appointment types:

- Follow up Intake
- Any visit with a behavioral (mental) health or psychiatric medication management concern
- Asthma focused follow up visits
- Obesity or nutrition visits (including failure to thrive/poor weight gain)

We would ALWAYS prefer a foster parent or caseworker accompany a child, however, for the following appointment types, a care provider may be available by phone rather than in person.

- Intake appointment
- Sick visit not related to one of the above problems

We understand that emergencies arise, and will do our best to work with your schedule. However, failure to comply with these policies will require rescheduling appointments to a time when a caregiver can be present. Repeated "no-show" appointments may also result in termination of care in the FCSC and referral to DSS supervisor.

Where is the clinic?

We have 2 locations to better serve children in foster care.

- Downtown- 3rd Floor MUSC's Rutledge Tower in the Pediatric Primary Care Office. We see patients at this location on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- North Charleston- MUSC After Hours Building: 2750 Dantzler Dr, Unit 102
We see patients at our North Charleston After Hours Clinic on Wednesdays.

How do I schedule an appointment for my child?

Please call [843-876-7023](tel:843-876-7023) to make an appointment.

Please arrive 15-20 minutes before your appointment. If you cannot make your appointment, please call to reschedule/cancel. For our clinic to run on time and to decrease your wait time, it is important that you do not come late for your appointment.

How do I handle an emergency?

An **emergency** is an illness or an injury that places your child's life in immediate danger.

Our business hours are Monday – Thursday, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm and Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. If you call after business hours, the MUSC operator will immediately notify the physician-on-call. Please tell the operator and the doctor that your child is in the Foster Care Support Clinic. **The number to call after business hours is: (843) 792-3955.**

Requests for medical information/immunization records

We can provide you with immunization records for daycare, school, WIC, or other programs.

Medications

- Bring a list of all your child's medications to your visit
- Please check the bottles before your visits to see if you need refills
- At the time of your visit-ask the health care provider to refill your medications
- Between visits, call 876-7023 to request a refill during normal business hours.

From the Human Services Coordinator

The human services coordinator will serve as your initial contact with the FCSC. After your child becomes a patient in the clinic, we will provide the following services:

- Provide ongoing case management and assessment of social service needs
- Serve as liaison with community agencies, e.g., DSS, DDSN, CRS, DNLCC, DCC, Therapeutic foster care, etc.
- Attend coordination meetings, e.g., Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) meetings, as needed
- Attend foster home or school visits, as needed

- Provide ongoing supportive counseling and consultation

As a FCSC participant, what are my child's rights?

The Foster Care Support Clinic Bill of Rights:

Children have the right...

- To be called by their name and to be treated with respect and dignity
- To receive safe and appropriate care in a timely manner in a secure and nurturing environment
- To clinic personnel who will listen
- To know the names of the doctors, nurses and other helpers who take care of them
- To make choices whenever possible as long as they do not interfere with their care
- To cry, make noise or object to anything that makes them uncomfortable
- To be told what's happening to them, why it is necessary, and to have all their questions answered in words they understand
- To have someone who speaks the same language
- To have doctors, nurses and other helpers who are sensitive to their culture

The Foster Care Support Clinic Goal Statement

"Our goal is to help you (the parent) help your child achieve his or her fullest potential."

The FCSC Family Support Principles

- Staff will collaborate and problem solve with families in a manner which is based on mutual trust, respect, dignity and equality.
- Staff is sensitive, knowledgeable, and responsive to family, cultural, ethnic and socio-economic diversity.
- Family choice and decision making occur at all levels of participation in the program, based on desires, priorities and preferences.
- Information necessary for families to make informed choices is shared in a sensitive, complete and unbiased manner.
- Staff provides supports, resources and services to families in a flexible, responsive and individualized manner.
- Staff assists families in identifying their own strengths, assets and interests as the primary way of empowering families and enhancing family functioning.
- Families are resources to their own members, to other families, to programs and to communities.

