



BUDDY PROGRAM

Please use this document to assist in introducing the Buddy Program to your patients.

Q:

WHAT IS THE BUDDY PROGRAM?

The HS Buddy Program is a peer support system that connects individuals who are currently participating in a clinical trial or are interested in participating in a clinical trial with a “buddy” who can help navigate decisions and challenges specific to trial involvement. This access to a peer mentor brings together people with shared experiences to learn from and support each other, providing a space where HS patients feel understood and accepted. Participation in the Buddy Program does not replace support provided by physicians or medical staff.

Q:

WILL PARTICIPANTS BE ABLE TO SOLICIT MEDICAL ADVICE FROM THEIR BUDDY?

No. The purpose of the HS Buddy Program is to bring together individuals who live with HS and provide an environment where they feel understood and accepted. HS Buddies will connect individuals who are currently participating in a clinical trial or are interested in participating in a clinical trial with a “buddy” who can help navigate decisions and challenges specific to trial involvement. No medical information will be discussed.

Q:

HOW OFTEN CAN PARTICIPANTS CONTACT THEIR BUDDY?

Once participants are matched with a Buddy, they will keep that same Buddy for a period of six months. Throughout the six-month duration, participants can contact their Buddy as frequently as needed.

Q:

CAN PARTICIPANTS CHOOSE THEIR BUDDY?

Absolutely! Prior to being matched with a Buddy, participants will fill out a profile [KF1] [MG2] preferred characteristics in a Buddy. While we can't guarantee a perfect match, every effort will be made to assign a Buddy who is the most compatible with each participant.

Q:

CAN PARTICIPANTS REMAIN WITH THE SAME BUDDY?

Yes! Unless a participant requests a different Buddy, they will remain with the same Buddy throughout the six-month period. Participation can be extended past six months.

Q:

WILL SITES BE MADE AWARE IF THEY HAVE A PATIENT PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM?

Yes. If sites refer a participant into the program and they match with a Buddy, site staff will receive a notification.

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WILL SITES BE PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR PATIENT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM?

No. All conversations between participants and their Buddy will remain confidential and will not be shared with their medical doctors.

Q:

HOW DO PARTICIPANTS JOIN?

If participants are interested in connecting with a Buddy, they will need to fill out the [form](#) and we'll match them with one of our mentors who best fits their criteria.

Q:

CAN I REFER PARTICIPANTS WHO WANT TO BECOME A BUDDY?

Absolutely! We're always looking for new Buddies! If you have a patient who is interested in becoming a Buddy, please refer them to the Buddy section of the website at <<[www.linkcominghere](#)>>.

Q:

WHAT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at <<insert email address>>.



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