



# Pediatric Navigation: Bridging the Gaps in Pediatric Primary Care and Patient Education

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## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

### Community Partner:

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children "Center for the Urban Child" (CUC) is a large, urban Pediatric outpatient clinic in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania that provides well and acute care to individuals ages 0-21. [St. Christopher's Hospital for Children Center for the Urban Child & Adolescent](#)

### Navigator Background:

The Pediatric Navigator program provides an opportunity for medical students to engage with the community as one of Drexel's College of Medicine Health Advocacy Practicum (HAP) sites. The program facilitates patient experience by providing needed resources (associated with social determinants of health) and developmental screenings and continuing various health and education initiatives (Reach Out and Read, Oral Health, and Asthma Education). As advocates for the family, Navigators use plain language and act as helping hands to facilitate the health care experience. Navigators work as integral parts of the medical team to help ensure patient and family needs are met. Having previously served in the Pediatric Navigator role, our time as BTG interns allowed us a unique opportunity to assist in next steps for building and expanding the program.

## EXPERIENCE

Within the CUC, interns were assigned to work in different areas, including the registration area for Tower Health portal enrollment, the resident teaching clinic, and the collaborative primary care clinic to facilitate patient advocacy and outreach.

Dedicated time outside of patient interactions was spent enhancing advocacy initiatives and the preexisting Pediatric Navigator Curriculum, focusing on:

- Gun safety
- Oral health
- Social determinants of health
- Training and education materials

### Gun Safety Resources

Scan with your camera app to view these resources & more on Cap4Kids.org

**Temple University Safe Bet Program**  
Provides free gun locks, no questions asked.  
[www.templebet.org/safebet](http://www.templebet.org/safebet)

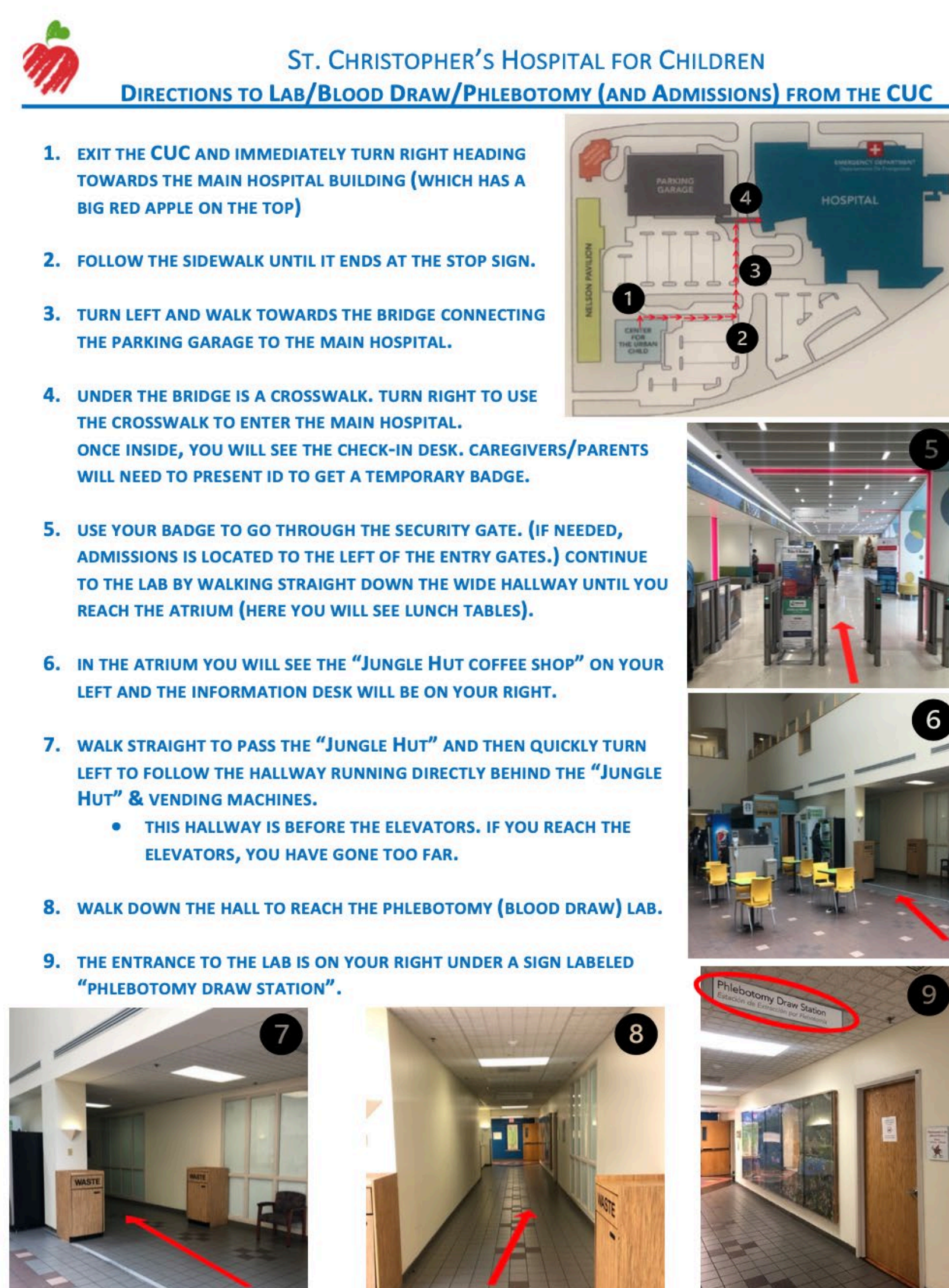
**Philadelphia Gun Buy Backs**  
Can safely trade in guns for money or gift cards, no questions asked. Multiple locations and dates are listed on the website.  
[phlcouncil.com/gunbuyback/](http://phlcouncil.com/gunbuyback/)

**Network of Neighbors**  
Includes a Trauma Response Network where community members are trained to support and lead responses to stress, violence, and loss within their own communities. Multiple locations.  
Phone number: 267-233-4837  
Email: [networkofneighbors@phila.gov](mailto:networkofneighbors@phila.gov)



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Utilized Pediatric Navigator skills to connect families to community resources.
- Created educational materials to aid and inform future Navigators including handouts on follow-up phone calls, a map to direct patients from the CUC to the phlebotomy lab in the main hospital, and videos on the SWYC screening tool and gun violence & resource screening.
- Developed tools to assist Navigators and clinicians in discretely screening for gun safety in a pediatric clinic.
- Assisted with data analysis related to a medical education poverty simulation conducted at DUCOM pre-pandemic.
- Enrolled 91 families in the St. Christopher's Health portal, which allows online access to patient medical records.
- Worked as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team to provide care for patients and their families extending beyond purely medical concerns.
- Recognized an appreciation of the contribution pre-clinical medical students can make to patient experience as well as the workflow of a busy urban pediatric clinic.



### SAFETY SCREENING

Please say the number(s) that match with your answer.

#### IF YOU HAVE A GUN AT HOME, HOW DO YOU KEEP IT SECURE?

1. I do not want to discuss this today.
2. We do not have guns in the house.
3. Gun Lock
4. Gun Safe
5. Lock box
6. None of the above

#### IF YOU HAVE A GUN AT HOME, DO YOU STORE THE AMMO (BULLETS) SEPARATELY?

1. Yes
2. No
3. We do not have guns in the house.

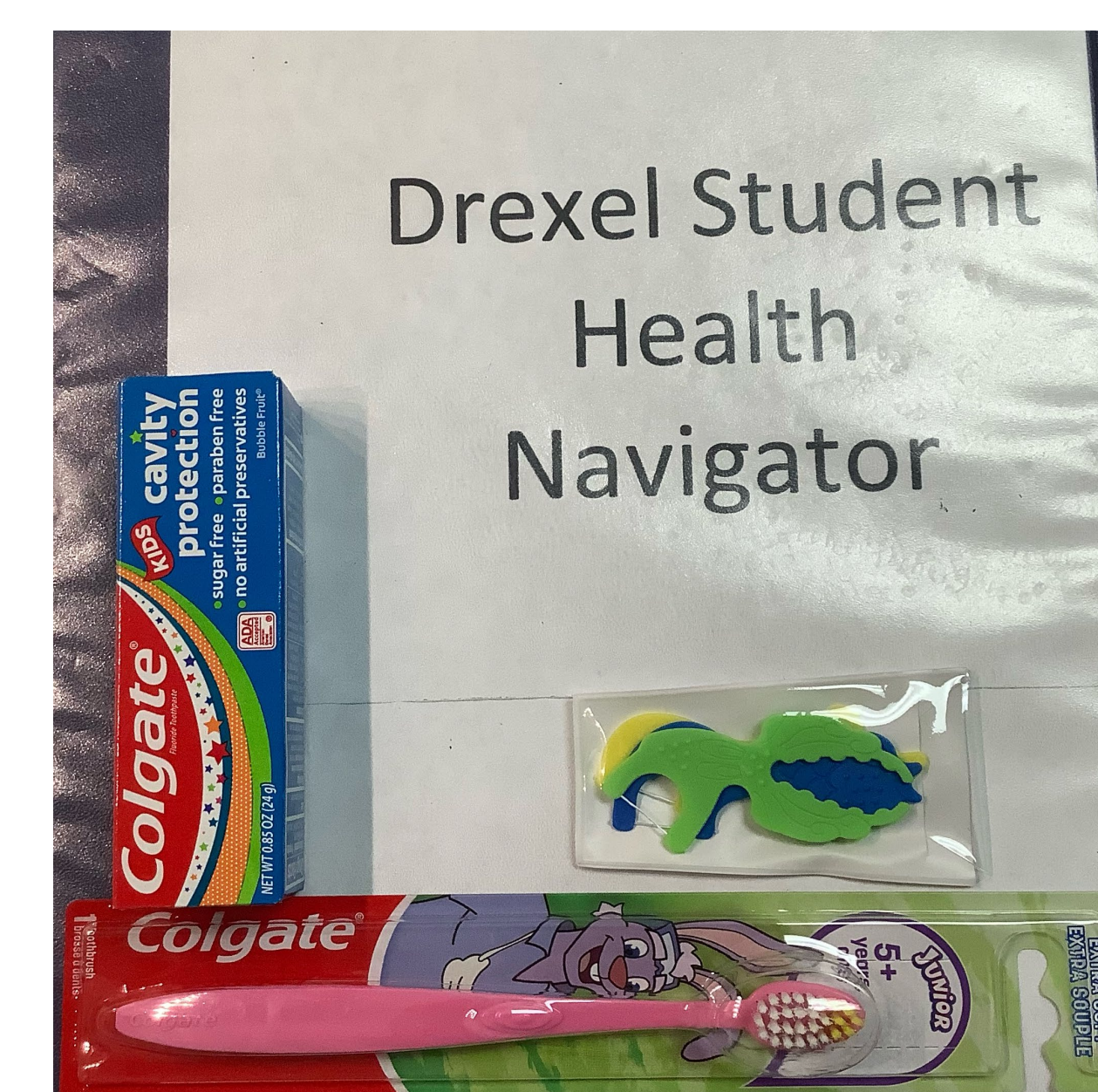
#### HAVE YOU OR A LOVED ONE BEEN IMPACTED BY GUN VIOLENCE IN THE PAST?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Prefer not to answer

#### WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN:

1. Receiving a free gun lock
2. Learning more information about gun safety and storage
3. Resources for grief or violence-related trauma
4. Information about asking about guns at other people's homes where your child may visit

## REFLECTION



This summer helped mold us into individuals acutely aware of the larger components of health and wellbeing that surround a single doctor's visit included, but not limited to, mental and behavioral health issues, food & housing insecurity, transportation struggles, literacy limitations, and barriers to care due to language and cultural differences. The BTG internship helped formed three future physicians, in the infancy of their professional development, who are now better equipped with the skills and knowledge to advocate for themselves and the communities they serve. Our experiences at St. Christopher Children's Hospital informed our understanding of the current issues affecting our communities and shaped us into contemplative student doctors who are willing to question the status quo that puts our patients at risk, and aptly prepared to work for the change we want to see in our world.