

Center for Circulatory Support Program

Dear Patient,

Welcome to the Center for Circulatory Support Program at the University of Michigan Frankel Cardiovascular Center! Our staff specializes in the care of patients with ventricular assist devices (VADs). We want you to be involved in your care. We encourage you to speak up if you have questions or concerns or if something does not seem quite right.

Meet our core team:

As a patient, it is important to know the members of your care team. We have provided a list of individuals you may have contact with during your hospital stay and ongoing patient care.

Multidisciplinary team

- Francis Pagani, MD, PhD
*Surgical Director
Cardiac Surgeon*
- Jonathan Haft, MD
Cardiac Surgeon
- Robert Hawkins, MD
Cardiac Surgeon
- Yuliya Tipograf, MD
Cardiac Surgeon
- Keith Aaronson, MD
Cardiologist
- Monica Colvin, MD
Cardiologist
- Reema Hasan, MD
*Medical Director
Cardiologist*
- Todd Koelling, MD
Cardiologist
- Matthew Konerman, MD
Cardiologist
- Taylor Lebeis, MD
Cardiologist
- John Nicklas, MD
Cardiologist
- Abbas Bitar, MD
*Medical Director
Cardiologist*
- Supriya Shore, MD
Cardiologist
- Marty Chun-Yen Tam, MD
Cardiologist
- Jessica Golbus, MD
Cardiologist
- Audrey Wu, MD
Cardiologist
- Thomas Cascino, MD
Cardiologist
- Maryse Palardy, MD
Cardiologist

Program manager

- Sarah Comstock, MSN, RN, CNML

Clinical team

- Kevin Knott, PA-C
Physician Assistant
- Rachel Smith, BSN, RN
- Rená Lucier, MSN, RN, CHFNP, VAD-C
Education Nurse Coordinator
VAD Coordinator
- Stephanie Gebauer, BSN, RN
VAD Coordinator
- Angela Rose, PA-C
Physician Assistant
- Teresa Colaianne, BSN, RN
VAD Coordinator
- Mary Jane Melong, MSN, RN
VAD Coordinator
- Todd Saunders, BSN, RN
VAD Coordinator

Support team

- Andy Griffith
Equipment Specialist
- Stephanie Smith
Patient Services Associate
- Christine Carroll
Clinical Information Analyst
- Nate Sink
Equipment Specialist

Clinical social work team

- Ruth Halben, BA, MSW, LMSW
Social Worker Senior
- Jack Harrington, MSW
Social Worker Senior

What do I do if I have concerns?

Emergency:

If you are experiencing an emergent alarm or emergency situation, call the VAD emergency number at **(734) 477-6722**. A member of the VAD team is on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Non-emergency:

If you have a non-emergent situation (like verifying your clinic appointment, medication refills, or general questions), please call the Frankel Cardiovascular Call Center at **(734) 647-7321** Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

Follow these steps to call the Frankel Cardiovascular Call Center:

1. Dial (734) 647-7321.
2. Listen to the automated message.
 - a. The message will ask you to “Press 1 for new patient”
3. Press option 1
4. Hold and stay on the line and someone will be connected to assist you.

Reason for call	Number to call
Routine care and questions	(734) 647-7321
Appointment scheduling or rescheduling	(734) 647-7321
Emergency during office hours	(734) 477-6722
Emergency after hours	(734) 477-6722

[MyUofMHealth.org](https://myUofMHealth.org) is a secure online patient portal that gives you another way to communicate with your care team. This tool allows you to:

- Request, view, and cancel appointments, or self-schedule an appointment with an established provider
- Receive laboratory and other test results

- Send non-urgent messages to your care team (this can help you avoid “phone tag”!)
- Review prescription medications and request prescription renewals

For more information on how to sign up, visit:

med.umich.edu/1libr/HIM/PatientPortal.pdf

If you need further assistance, you can e-mail the Health Information Management department at HIM-PatientPortal@med.umich.edu, or you can call (734) 615-0872 Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM.

What support and resources are available?

We strongly recommend joining the VAD Patient and Family Support Group. Call the Adult Heart Transplant and Center for Circulatory Support social work office at (734) 763-9788 for more information. Our website is an excellent resource to learn more: medicine.umich.edu/dept/cardiac-surgery/patient-information/adult-cardiac-surgery/vad-program

We look forward to working with you and your family! We want you to be involved in your care. We encourage you to speak up if you have questions or concerns or if something does not seem quite right.

Sincerely,

The Center for Circulatory Support Program staff

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by University of Michigan (U-M) Health for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by U-M Health and for which U-M Health does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition, or your treatment plan.

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