YOUR TRANSPLANT TEAM

Transplant Team “Who’s Who”

Meet the **Healthcare Team** that will be working with you and your family.

We at the Michigan Congenital Heart Center have many healthcare professionals working as a team to ensure your child receives the best medical care possible. The roles of your child’s healthcare team are described below.

*Transplant Coordinator*

The coordinator provides education regarding the transplant process, listing for transplant, and patient responsibilities before and after transplant. This person coordinates the efforts of the entire Transplant Team. In our department this role is filled by a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP). The PNP is an advanced practiced nurse. This person works closely with your child’s physicians and surgeons, helping coordinate the medical care before and after transplant.

*Pediatric Transplant Cardiologist*

This physician specializes in pediatric heart transplant and the diseases associated with it. This person will meet with the child and the family to discuss the appropriateness of a transplant based on the information received during the evaluation. He/she will also discuss the significance of undertaking a heart transplant, the various types of heart donors available, the risk of the surgery and the possible complications after transplant.

*Pediatric Cardiac Transplant Surgeon*

An integral member of the transplant team, this surgeon will meet with the child and family to discuss the risks and benefits of the transplant surgery. His/her role is to perform the transplant surgery. Before performing the transplant surgery, the surgeon assists in the transplant evaluation process and determines if transplant is right for your child.
**Social Worker**

This person helps the patient and family deal with the variety of concerns and stressors experienced before and after the transplant. These include evaluation of and counseling for emotional issues, financial concerns and insurance coverage (as related to medicines, equipment and appointments), supplemental assistance/insurance programs, and referrals to community resources. The social worker also helps with needs that arise when a family travels and has to stay near the hospital during hospital stays and appointments. They can also discuss billing concerns you have. It is important to understand what costs might not be covered by insurance or other programs and what you might have to pay out of pocket.

**Financial Coordinator**

This person works in the Mott Business Office and will review your insurance coverage and/or request authorization from insurance for transplant. You will be given information, if requested, about your insurance coverage for hospital stays, clinic procedures and medicines.

**Psychologist or Psychiatrist**

This person may conduct a more detailed psychological/psychiatric evaluation and assessment. Some patients with a history of drug or alcohol abuse may be required to participate in a rehabilitation program and meet abstinence requirements before and after transplant listing.

**Child Life Specialist**

This person works with many other people on the transplant care team to provide a safe environment for children to relax and ask questions. Through developmental play and various therapeutic activities, the child life specialist helps reduce the child's fears and encourages expression related to the hospital experience.

**Registered Dietitian**

This person will perform a nutritional assessment and provide nutrition education to children and their families.
**Procurement Coordinator**

The procurement coordinator maintains the required information for listing and status changes with United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and Gift of Life (GOL). The procurement coordinator has on-call responsibilities for donor offers. If the organ is accepted, this is the person who will contact you to arrange admission and give you direction regarding hospital stay, timing and prep instructions.

**Transplant Pharmacist**

This is a pharmacist who specializes in the care of patients following pediatric heart transplant. The transplant pharmacist is a vital member of the transplant team, assisting with accurate dosing and the management of medications following transplant. This pharmacist also assists in post-transplant education regarding immunosuppression and other medications.

**Medical Assistant**

This person works closely with the transplant coordinator assisting in the daily operations of the program. You may receive a phone call from them regarding labs, appointments, or you may speak with them before the transplant coordinator.

Some candidates may be referred to another medical service for consultations. For example, many candidates need to be seen by a **nephrologist**: kidney doctor, **endocrinologist**: bone and mineral, diabetes doctor, **gastroenterologist/hepatologist**: stomach/liver doctor, or a **pulmonologist**: lung doctor, to assess for other medical conditions.
Transplant Team Information and Phone Numbers

**Important Numbers**

**University of Michigan Pediatric Transplant Office** ..................... 734-764-5176
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**University of Michigan Paging** .................................................. 734-936-6267

**Your Pediatric Transplant Team**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Transplant Coordinators</td>
<td>Jessica Jordan, PA-C</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mary (Meg) Zamberlan, CPNP</td>
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<td>Transplant Medical Assistant</td>
<td>Chris Kayganich, MA</td>
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<td>Transplant Cardiologists</td>
<td>Heang Lim, MD</td>
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<td>Dave Peng, MD</td>
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<td>Kurt Schumacher, MD</td>
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<td>Transplant Cardiac Surgeons</td>
<td>Richard Ohye, MD</td>
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<td>Jennifer Christel Romano, MD</td>
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<td>Peter Sassalos, MD</td>
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<td>Ming-Sing Si, MD</td>
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<td>Transplant Social Workers</td>
<td>Cindy Brown, LMSW</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Meghann Deering, LMSW</td>
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<td>Madelyn Gardner, LMSW</td>
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<td>Jennifer Tyrrell, LMSW</td>
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<td>Transplant Dietitians</td>
<td>Megan Rose, RD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jessica Stoscup, RD</td>
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<td>Transplant Pharmacist</td>
<td>Jessika Richards, PharmD</td>
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<td>Transplant Psychologist</td>
<td>Melissa Cousino, PhD</td>
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Additional Team Members

We at the Congenital Heart Center of The University of Michigan Health Centers have many healthcare professionals working as a team to ensure your child receives the best medical care possible. The roles of your child’s healthcare team are described below:

**Pediatric Cardiologists**

Pediatric cardiologists are the leaders of the medical team. They work closely with other doctors-in-training such as pediatric cardiology fellows and pediatric residents. They diagnose and treat congenital heart disease, perform heart catheterizations, decide with the surgeon about heart surgery, and provide care before and after heart surgery. Some pediatric cardiologists implant pacemakers and defibrillators. These physicians are called intensivists in the Pediatric Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit (PCTU). You may find that one of these pediatric cardiologists will be your child’s primary cardiologist.

**Pediatric Cardiac Surgeons**

Pediatric cardiac surgeons are leaders of the surgical team. Their role is to perform heart surgery. They work closely with doctors in training, such as pediatric cardiovascular surgery fellows and surgery residents as well as the pediatric cardiologists.

**Pediatric Cardiology Fellows**

Pediatric cardiology fellows are pediatricians who are completing a three-year training program to specialize in pediatric cardiology.

**Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery Fellows**

Pediatric cardiovascular surgery fellows are thoracic surgeons who are completing a one-year training program to specialize in pediatric cardiovascular surgery.

**Surgery Residents**

Surgery residents have completed medical school and have nearly completed an eight- to nine-year training program to specialize in thoracic surgery.

**Pediatric Residents**

Pediatric residents have completed medical school and are completing a three-year training program to specialize in pediatrics.
**Pediatric Nurse Practitioners**

Pediatric nurse practitioners are masters prepared nurses who provide advanced nursing care. Pediatric nurse practitioners work closely with the attending physicians. Together, they manage the care that is provided in the general care unit after heart surgery as well as your child’s ongoing cardiovascular care.

**Clinical Care Coordinators**

A clinical care coordinator (CCC) is a nurse who has been specially trained to perform a variety of functions which support the nurse practitioners and other team members. There is a CCC available 24 hours a day on 11 West to address the needs of your child.

**Pediatric Nurses**

Pediatric nurses are registered nurses who provide expert nursing care to children and families. They provide care in our clinic, procedure areas, intensive care and general care units. They are specially trained eyes and ears available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Practice Management/Discharge Planning Nurses**

These nurses work with you and the medical team to plan for your child’s needs at home. They can arrange for visiting nurses and supplies or equipment as needed.

**Child Life Therapists**

Child life therapists help support children during stressful hospital experiences. This is done largely through play and other fun activities.

**Medical Social Workers**

Medical social workers help support children and families during stressful hospital experiences. They offer counseling and assist with lodging, finances, insurance, and connect children and families with resources near their home. They also provide services on an outpatient basis.

**Nutritionists**

Nutritionists assess the dietary needs of children with heart problems and suggest diet changes. They help with infant formulas. They suggest diets for children with obesity, high cholesterol and hypertension (high blood pressure).
Pharmacists

Our pharmacists are professionals with a doctorate in pharmacy who have education and experience in the use of heart medications including appropriate dosing and interactions among different drugs.

Respiratory Therapists

Respiratory therapists are professionals with specialized education in airway and ventilator management of infants, children, adolescents and adults.

Phlebotomists

Phlebotomists specialize in drawing blood from patients.

Assistive Personnel (Techs/Unit Hosts)

Specially trained individuals who help the nurses and doctors.

Medical Students

Students currently in medical school.

Physical Therapists (PT)

Physical therapists treat injury or dysfunction with exercises and other physical treatments to improve movement function.

Speech Therapists

Members of the patient’s rehabilitation team who help with mouth feedings and other therapies.

Occupational Therapists (OT)

Members of the patient’s rehabilitation team who help maximize the patient’s independence.

Unit Clerks

Staff members who can help you with all non-medical needs such as finding your way around the hospital and connecting you with resources.
Volunteers
Volunteers are lay people who come to entertain and play with patients, hold them and rock them when needed.

X-Ray Technicians
X-ray technicians are specially trained individuals who take x-rays and other radiology diagnostic tests.

Sonographers
Sonographers are specially trained technicians that perform echocardiograms (ECHOs) and ultrasounds.

Cath Lab Technicians
Cath lab technicians are specially trained technicians who help the doctor in the heart catheterization procedure.

EP Technicians
EP technicians are specially trained technicians who help the doctor in the electrophysiology procedure.