

YOUR TRANSPLANT TEAM

Transplant Team Information and Phone Numbers

Important Numbers

University of Michigan Pediatric Transplant Office 734-764-5176
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Fax) 734-232-1212

University of Michigan Paging 734-936-6267

Your Pediatric Transplant Team

Title/Position	Name
Transplant Coordinators/	Bethany Giacobbe, CPNP
Advanced Practice Providers	Natalie Sinicropi, CPNP Mary (Meg) Zamberlan, CPNP
Transplant Medical Assistant	Debbie Rollins, MAI
Transplant Cardiologists.	Heang Lim, MD Amanda McCormick, MD Dave Peng, MD Kurt Schumacher, MD
Transplant Cardiac Surgeons	Vikram Sood, MD Timothy Lancaster, MD Jiyong Moon, MD
Transplant Social Workers	Madelyn Gardner, LMSW Alana Oudekerk-Hanss, LMSW Maria Reale, LMSW
Transplant Dietitians	Sara Samhadaneh, RD Asha Shanti, RD Jessica Stoscup, RD
Transplant Psychologist	Melissa Cousino, PhD
Education Specialist	Brenda Henne
Transplant Pharmacist	Ashley Huebschman, PharmD
Financial Coordinator	Anessa Hawks

Transplant Team “Who’s Who”

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

We at the University of 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 an Advanced Practice Provider (APP). 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

The social worker is another supportive resource on the transplant multidisciplinary team. They provide support to the families during the inpatient admissions, as well as on an outpatient basis.

Their primary role is to help families navigate the complex and often overwhelming process of transplantation. They are trained to address the unique psychosocial issues that arise within the family during the transplant process, such as coping with anxiety and stress, and addressing financial and insurance concerns.

Additionally, they advocate for the parents/family's needs and rights, coordinating community resources and services, and providing education and counseling surrounding resources available.

Overall, the social worker serves as a member of the transplant team, helping families navigate the complex medical, emotional, and practical challenges of heart transplantation.



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.

Pediatric Transplant Psychologist

Pediatric psychologists provide assessment and interventions to patients and families and also consult with medical teams and hospitals. They most often provide intervention in the areas of adjustment to illness, emotional and behavioral concerns, and treatment adherence. Pediatric psychologists can also help children and adolescents learn relaxation, coping, and pain management strategies.

Child Life Specialist

This person has a sound understanding of human growth and development and the impact illness, injury and/or disability has on children. Through the use of education, preparation, and developmentally appropriate activities, Child Life can help to minimize stress while encouraging a patient to learn positive coping skills. With the goal of minimizing stress, child life services is designed to incorporate age-appropriate play, increase familiarity with the hospital setting, and offer an orientation to new experiences while bridging the gap between home and hospital.

Registered Dietitian

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

School Liaison/Education Specialist

This person is the liaison between our patients with congenital heart disease and their families and schools – working collaboratively to provide the services and support needed for our patients to participate and make progress in their education. We work to bridge the medical challenges, identify learning needs and communicate information in a way that can be translated to school staff for development of effective and efficient learning plans. We do this through: Awareness, Presence, Consistency, Involvement, Engagement and Practice.

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.