

Primary Care Physician (PCP) or Family Physician

A primary care physician is a title used by insurance companies to identify the doctor who is responsible to provide general medical care and to authorize patient referrals for specialty care.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

University of Michigan Pediatric Transplant Office	(734) 615-2040
(Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)	(734) 615-2042 fax
University of Michigan Paging.....	(734) 936-6267
Appointment Desk.....	(734) 615-2040

Your Pediatric Transplant Team

Title/Position	Name	Phone
Transplant Coordinators.....	Jane Luebker, RN.....	(734) 615-2040
	Becky Sinks, RN.....	(734) 615-2040
Transplant Nurse Practitioner	Karla Willson, NP	(734) 615-2040
Transplant Nephrologist.....	David Kershaw, MD	(734) 615-2040
	(Medical Director)	
Transplant Surgeon	Meredith Barrett, MD	(734) 615-2040
	(Surgical Director)	
Social Worker	Katy Fasl, LMSW	(734) 936-5372
Pediatric Psychologist.....	Melissa Cousino, PhD.....	(734) 615-2577
Patient Care Coordinator/MA.....	Leslie Stalker, MA	(734) 615-2040
Financial Coordinator	Cynthia Warren.....	(734) 936-4631
Dietitian	Jenna Beehler, RD	(734) 763-7881
Living Donor Transplant Coordinator.....		(800) 333-9013

Interruption of Services

In the unlikely event that a change occurs in the Transplant Center's ability to perform transplant or living donation (limiting the center's ability to accept organs or perform organ transplant or living donation) all patients within any phase of transplant will be notified.

This would include:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) inactivation
- Extended period of unavailability of key medical or surgical staff
- Internal or external emergency

YOUR CHILD'S KIDNEY TRANSPLANT TEAM

Transplant Nephrologist

A doctor who is an expert in kidney disease and transplant. The transplant nephrologist is responsible for determining medical needs for a transplant, managing transplant-related medical needs before transplant, participating in care during transplant admission, seeing patients for long-term transplant care and managing medicines after transplant.

Transplant Surgeon

A doctor who performs kidney surgery. The surgeon is responsible for evaluating medical conditions before surgery, discussing the transplant, performing the surgery, monitoring immunosuppressive medications while the patient is in the hospital, and providing post-operative care for a defined period of time following surgery.

Transplant Coordinator (Pre-Transplant)

A registered nurse who is responsible for managing cases to ensure patients are approved for transplant. Transplant coordinators are the primary link between the patient and doctors before transplant. Close communication with the transplant coordinator is very important to getting listed, maintaining the listing and being transplanted.

Transplant Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner

Physician Assistants (PA) and Nurse Practitioners (NP) are licensed professionals who work closely with the nephrologists and surgeons to provide medical care to patients before and after transplant. They also follow up with patients in the post-transplant clinic under the supervision of the nephrologist or surgeon.

Transplant Social Worker

A licensed social worker who helps patients and their family understand and cope with a variety of issues related to the transplant experience such as emotional, family, financial and school concerns. The transplant social worker is able to help patients at any point in their transplant care. Transplant social workers can also provide available resources in the local community.

Pediatric Transplant Psychologist

A pediatric psychologist is someone who has a PhD or PsyD in clinical or counseling psychology and specialized training in working with children with chronic or acute medical conditions. 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, treatment adherence, and health promotion. Pediatric psychologists can also help children and adolescents learn relaxation, coping, and pain management strategies.

Living Donor Advocate (LDA)

The team member responsible to meet with potential donors during the evaluation process to represent, advise and protect the living donors, while promoting the best interests of the living donors. They provide education on organ donation, ensure the patients can make an informed decision, ensure they are free from pressure in making their decision, participate in team discussion about living donors, and are available to donors throughout the donation process and beyond. The LDA has the authority to exclude any living donor if they believe donation is not in the best interest of the potential donor. They do not participate in the care of transplant recipients.

Transplant Financial Coordinator

Financial coordinators work with patients and their family to help them understand the various financial aspects of transplant. They work with the insurance carrier to verify coverage and help in getting prior authorization for transplant services. They also work with patients with limited insurance coverage to explore other funding opportunities and alert the transplant team of the situation.

Transplant Dietitian or Registered Dietitian

The registered dietitian is the kidney nutrition expert who will meet with patients to assess their nutritional status and help patients with meeting their lifestyle goals. To keep patients healthy before and after their kidney transplant, the dietitian is available to discuss a variety of topics such as kidney diet, weight management, diabetes, cholesterol or blood pressure.

Clinical Research Team

The clinical research team manages the clinical research studies designed to improve the understanding of transplant and enhance the outcomes for all patients. Research staff responsibilities include identifying eligible patients, informing patients about research options, enrolling patients in research studies, collecting research data and coordinating research care. The research team works closely with the clinical team to provide patients access to cutting edge therapies before they are available everywhere.

Transplant Pharmacist

A pharmacist has knowledge, training and experience in transplant medicines and is available to work with patients, family and the rest of the transplant team with regard to managing transplant medicines during the patient's entire transplant journey.

Post-Transplant Nurse

A registered nurse (RN) specializes in kidney disease and more specifically, in patients with kidney transplants. A RN helps the team provide care after the transplant. The RN maintains medical information, monitors labs and medicines and works closely with the transplant doctors on patient care issues. Patients may have different transplant nurses during the different phases of care post-transplant.