

2024 Clinical Outcomes Report

**BEST
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITALS**

U.S. News
& WORLD REPORT

RANKED IN
11 SPECIALTIES
2024-2025



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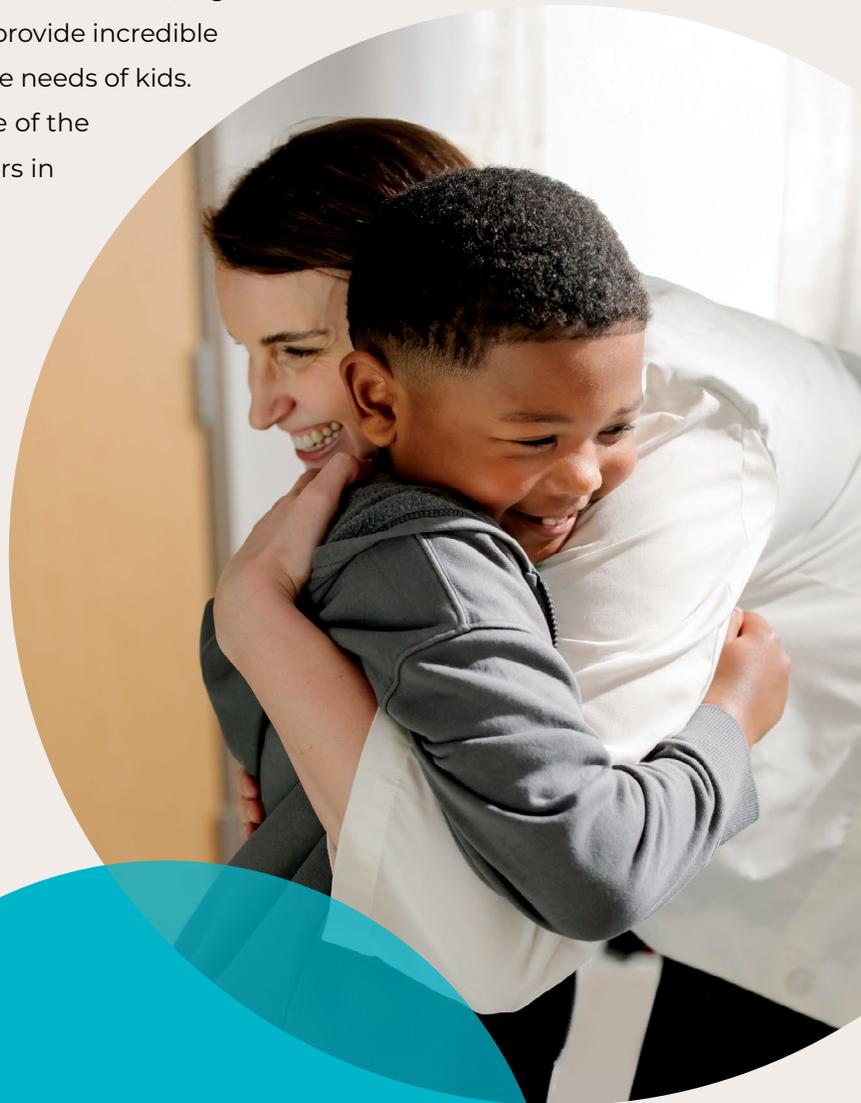
leading the way in pediatric care

For more than 110 years, Children's Health™ has been making lives better for children in North Texas and beyond. Combining our expert-level care with the latest techniques and technology, we offer a full range of pediatric specialty and acute care services.

From broken bones and other traumas to world-class heart, digestive and cancer care, including gene therapy, we provide incredible treatment options tailored to meet the unique needs of kids.

In fact, Children's Medical Center Dallas is one of the highest-ranked pediatric health care providers in the nation according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

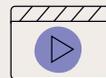
And while we take great pride in being one of the best, we place a higher value on seeing happy, healthy patients leave the hospital. There's just no better affirmation of our mission and what we stand for at Children's Health.





FAMILY-CENTERED CARE

It's not just about treatment, it's about families. We believe engaged families lead to better care – and even better outcomes. That's why we practice family-centered care to create a partnership built on patient and family strengths, choice, and independence, resulting in personalized care for every child. In fact, acting on feedback from our Family Advisory Council has led to positive changes in our clinical practices that have improved the overall family experience.



Watch our
In the Know
Video Series



Listen to our
Pediatric Insights
Podcast



Attend our
Continuing Medical
Education Courses



Sign up for our
Transforming Pediatric
Healthcare Newsletter





ACADEMIC AFFILIATION

Our success is the result of a close collaboration with UT Southwestern Medical Center. By combining the strengths of one of the nation's preeminent academic medical centers and one of the largest, nonprofit pediatric health care providers in the nation, this one-of-a-kind relationship affords our patients access to world-renowned expertise in pediatric specialty care.



BUILDING THE FUTURE OF PEDIATRIC CARE

Together with our partners at UT Southwestern Medical Center, we are building a new pediatric hospital in Dallas that will be one of the largest and most transformative pediatric hospitals in the nation, which we anticipate opening in 2031.

Replacing the existing Children's Medical Center Dallas campus, our new 2 million square foot hospital will have two 12-story towers and an eight-story tower with 552 inpatient beds, including the largest Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Dallas and a Level 1 trauma center with 90 emergency department exam pods and 24 observation rooms. The new campus will accommodate emerging technology, allow for deeper collaboration, enhance patient care amenities, and create a better working environment to recruit and retain the nation's best researchers, physicians, nurses and staff.

It will also add a comprehensive Fetal Care Center that will jointly leverage the expertise of Children's Health and UT Southwestern to develop the most capable and accessible center for complex maternal and fetal health care services in the region.

Exciting growth is a persistent theme throughout our system. In 2024, we unveiled the expansion of our Children's Medical Center Plano campus. Featuring a new, eight-story 395,000 square foot tower with 140 new inpatient beds, 48 new emergency room exam rooms and industry-leading technology, this investment demonstrates our comprehensive commitment to meet the needs of our growing pediatric population.



Honors and Achievements

an enduring commitment to excellence.

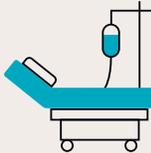
Children's Health is honored to receive awards and recognitions that embody our dedication to providing incredible health care and service.



Treating more than 275,000 children annually



Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* in all 11 pediatric specialties, including pediatric and adolescent behavioral health



Highest level of pediatric trauma care in North Texas as a Level I trauma center



Children's Medical Center Dallas is the only pediatric hospital in the country with seven disease-specific care certifications from The Joint Commission for conditions such as asthma, autism and diabetes



Highest level of neonatal intensive care with a FETAL Center, Level IV NICU, NeuroNICU and follow-up care through age 5



Verified to offer the highest level of pediatric surgical care by the American College of Surgeons at both Dallas and Plano campuses



Physician medical staff dual board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics, as well as their respective specialties



Designated as a Center of Excellence by the Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association (HCMA), making it one of only 30 Centers of Excellence nationwide and the first designated center in North Texas



As the only pediatric heart transplant facility in North Texas, we have performed 400+ heart transplants



In 2023, Children's Health and UT Southwestern launched the first gene therapy clinical trial in North Texas

a message from our leaders

Success at Children's Health is defined by our **collective commitment** to patient safety, positive outcomes and our mission **to make life better for children**.

Each division functions with a **multidisciplinary mindset**, discovering opportunities for collaboration across the system to provide **high-quality, comprehensive care**. This synergy has taken many forms, as detailed in the division leader messages shared throughout this book.

Patient safety is paramount to the **quality** of **care** we provide during each of the nearly **970,000 visits** we see each year. We have invested significant time and technology into developing processes and tools to ensure that each patient remains safe in our care.

Our affiliation with UT Southwestern Medical Center uniquely positions each division at Children's Health to remain on the **leading edge of pediatric care**. This collaboration equips our teams with **innovative research** and **transformative treatments** while allowing our **world-renowned physicians** to share their expertise with the next generation of providers.

One of the most rewarding elements of pediatrics is the opportunity to grow with our patients and champion their successful, healthy lives. As we look to the **exciting future** of the **Children's Health** system and pediatric health care, we are proud to continually be among the nation's best hospitals for serving the next generation of our state, country and beyond.

Sincerely,



Brian Wagers, M.D.
Chief Quality Officer



Jorge Bezerra, M.D.
Pediatrician-in-Chief



Dai Chung, M.D.
Chief Medical Executive

Cardiology and Heart Surgery

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION CHIEFS

The Heart Center at Children's Health has built a nationally recognized team of experts in pediatric and congenital heart care. Through our continued commitment to innovation, we are achieving some of the best possible outcomes for every child's heart, oftentimes exceeding national benchmarks across a range of complexities. Our multidisciplinary, team-based approach has not only led to record-level outcomes, but has supported outstanding nursing and care team retention, allowing us to elevate and sustain the highest-quality care possible.

In 2023 and 2024, we completed 69 heart transplants, making our program the nation's busiest pediatric and congenital heart transplant program two years in a row. More important than the number of transplants is the number of patients who continue to thrive following these transplants as evident by our outstanding survival rate despite a higher-than-average case complexity. Watching our patients enjoy healthy lives energizes our unwavering pursuit of discovery, including new technologies and research-based protocols. We continue to invest in learning networks and collaboration with other world-renowned centers to turn data and discovery into transformative care.

Our multidisciplinary approach to innovation is evident in our newly launched Complex Biventricular Repair Program. Through this program, we've provided leading-edge care to dozens of patients with severe congenital heart defects historically reduced to a single ventricle palliative pathway. Our success is possible due to our approach of tailoring each procedure to each child's unique needs. Using best-in-class cardiac imaging, including digital 3D models, to examine every angle of their heart, we successfully strategize and personalize procedures with our expert group of surgeons, cardiologists, nurses and care team members.

It is this multidisciplinary approach that sets care at The Heart Center apart. From the moment a child becomes our patient, they have a comprehensive team of experts dedicated to successfully treating and managing individual challenges in a fashion that is personalized, specialized and driven by compassionate care.

Sincerely,



Nicolas Madsen,
M.D., MPH



Robert Jaquiss,
M.D.



OUTCOMES

Data from July 2023-June 2024

Overall STS
Operative Mortality:

1.1%

STS STAT5 mortality

4.3%

Total volume of transplants

69 with **3.5%**
waitlist mortality

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovations in pediatric cardiology and heart surgery: 2024 year in review

This past year, The Heart Center at Children's Medical Center Dallas, part of Children's Health, has led innovations transforming care in pediatric cardiology and heart surgery. In partnership with UT Southwestern, we're proud to share these advancements – which highlight our ongoing mission to make life better for children. Through groundbreaking clinical trials, new treatments and pioneering programs – we continue to be recognized among the nation's best children's hospitals.

Read about our latest innovations in pediatric cardiology and heart surgery below:

Advancing the use of fetal CMR

Prenatal detection of congenital heart disease (CHD) is essential to high-quality care, yet diagnosis remains challenging. The Fetal Heart Program at Children's Health is one of only a few centers in the United States to offer fetal cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (fetal CMR) as a complement to fetal echocardiography. Children's Health is refining how to use this tool to produce the highest quality images and ease the diagnosis of CHD. The team is also exploring whether CMR can predict CHD prognosis.

Machine perfusion expertise expands access to lifesaving solid organ transplants

Lifesaving solid organ transplants rely on donor organs. In 2024, Children's Health transplant specialists helped expand the number of donor organs available – and extend the length of time those organs remain viable – through their work on international clinical studies of normothermic machine perfusion (NMP). NMP continuously pumps a nutrient-rich solution through the recovered organ to keep it healthy longer. Pediatric surgeons at Children's Health performed the nation's first pediatric liver transplant using NMP in October 2022. Children's Health remains one of the only children's hospitals using this advanced technology today.

Integrating perinatal mental health screening into fetal cardiac care

Perinatal mental health conditions are the #1 health complication of pregnancy and early childhood. In October 2023, the Fetal Heart Program at Children's Health became one of the few places in the U.S. to routinely screen patients seeking care. Pathways to appropriate levels of care are now incorporated into the clinical workflow – without adding time-consuming steps for the providers. In addition, patients are happy: 97% said the screening was helpful.



Discover more on pediatric cardiology at Children's Health

Cancer

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION CHIEF

As the largest childhood cancer and blood disorders center in North Texas, we have the responsibility to provide industry-leading care to one in five children in Texas diagnosed with cancer.

The Pauline Allen Gill Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (CCBD) is driven by discovery and invigorated by transformative approaches to clinical care. Research conducted by physicians within our division is consistently recognized nationally and internationally by our pediatric peers and the scientific community.

One of the world's top academic journals, *Science Immunology*, selected a peer-reviewed article by Andrew Y. Koh, M.D., Director of Pediatric Cellular and ImmunoTherapeutics Program at Children's Health and Professor of Pediatrics, Microbiology and the Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center at UT Southwestern Medical Center, as one of its top five papers of 2023.

The revolutionary discoveries from CCBD are not only making headlines but are also making a tremendous impact on the lives of our patients and families. Children's Health is one of the country's few designated Qualified Treatment Centers to operationalize FDA-approved ex vivo gene therapies for beta thalassemia, sickle cell anemia and cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy. This one-time treatment has the potential to cure patients of their disease.

In addition, our physicians are leading the way in clinical collaboration with the first Pulmonary Embolism Response Team (PERT) in a pediatric center. This is a noteworthy example of the continual innovation and collaboration persistent throughout the division to provide both rapid and long-term care.

Clinical excellence resonates throughout our center as providers and care teams dedicate each day to translating research and data into life-changing treatments for our patients.

Sincerely,



Patrick Leavey, M.D.

OUTCOMES

Acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL) survival at five years

2023 PERFORMANCE:

96%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK:

95%

100-day survival rate for patients who received sibling-matched, (HLA-identical) allogeneic-related transplants

2023 PERFORMANCE:

100%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK:

95%

100-day survival rate for patients who received matched unrelated allogeneic transplants (excluding sibling-matched)

2023 PERFORMANCE:

100%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK:

95%

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovations in pediatric cancer and blood disorders: 2024 year in review

This past year, the Center for Pediatric Oncology and Hematology at Children’s Medical Center Dallas, part of Children’s Health, has led innovations that transformed pediatric cancer care. In partnership with UT Southwestern, we’re proud to share these advancements – which highlight our ongoing mission to make life better for children. Through groundbreaking clinical trials, new treatments and pioneering programs – we continue to be recognized among the nation’s best children’s hospitals.

Read about our latest innovations in pediatric cancer care and research below:

New gene therapies change outcomes for rare blood disorders

Children living with sickle cell disease (SCD) or other blood disorders face serious health risks. Bone marrow transplant is currently the only cure – but it has significant risks. Children’s Health is among the first centers in the country to offer new gene therapies to children with SCD and beta thalassemia. These therapies use edited versions of a child’s own genes to help them produce healthy blood cells, reduce symptoms, and lower or eliminate the need for blood transfusions – all while avoiding the risks associated with transplant.

Combining chemotherapy and immunotherapy to improve outlook for pediatric cancer patients

Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) have revolutionized treatment for some adult cancers, but they aren’t as effective against pediatric solid tumors. Would that change if patients received an ICI and chemotherapy together? Pediatric oncologists at Children’s Health are leading a clinical trial to find out. Combining treatment modalities could prove to have multiple benefits, making tumors more vulnerable to the immune system while enhancing the patient’s response to chemo.

Can addressing socioeconomic disparities improve outcomes for children with solid tumors?

Geography and race don’t cause solid tumors – but they can affect survival rates. That’s what investigators at Children’s Health and UT Southwestern found when they studied the outcomes of 4,000 pediatric patients in Texas. Specifically, children who live in disadvantaged neighborhoods or belong to certain racial minorities have a higher risk of death five years after diagnosis compared to other children. The study doesn’t identify specific causes, but in general, investigators agree more research and more resources devoted to high-risk communities can help address these disparities.



Discover more on pediatric oncology and hematology at Children’s Health

Gastroenterology and GI Surgery

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION CHIEFS

Utilizing longstanding clinical programs and new groundbreaking therapies, the Gastroenterology division is committed to treating the full spectrum of pediatric GI conditions.

One of these clinical programs, the Claude Prestidge Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Clinic, celebrated a decade of patient care in 2024. Our division co-directs the program alongside our Pulmonology colleagues, as digestive health is critical to maintain a higher body mass index and positive long-term outcomes. The program has reached a benchmark of 58 percentile body mass index for cystic fibrosis patients between the ages of 2 and 9 years old, marking a significant accomplishment for our team and our patients.

Our dedication to achieving positive patient outcomes is the catalyst for implementing innovative techniques throughout the division. In 2023, we established an Unsedated Transnasal Endoscopy Program, offering diagnostic endoscopy for eligible patients, particularly those with eosinophilic esophagitis, to eliminate unnecessary risk, cost and time associated with deep sedation or general anesthesia.

In our pursuit to pioneer the future of pediatric GI care, we continue to lead research activity, engage our peers and invest in the next generation of GI physicians to provide the highest level of clinical expertise for our patients. In addition to new programs studying cholestasis, biliary atresia and autoimmune liver disease, we are the founding site of Pediatric ERCP Database Initiative (PEDI), a multicenter international collaborative examining technical and clinical outcomes in endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP). We are also heavily involved in educating and equipping pediatric GI trainees at Children's Medical Center Dallas and UT Southwestern Medical Center, offering one of the most well-rounded training environments in the nation.

Building on a strong foundation of excellence in all pillars of our mission, we look forward to furthering our contribution to the children around the globe suffering from pediatric GI disease.

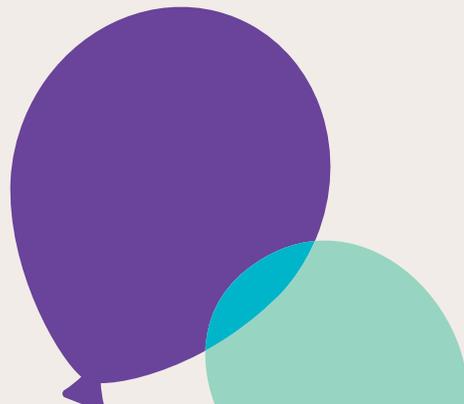
Sincerely,



Bradley Barth,
M.D., M.P.H.



Barbara Gaines,
M.D.



OUTCOMES

One-year and three-year survival after liver transplant

2023 PERFORMANCE:

94% **94%**
(one-year) - (three-year)

Severe complications after endoscopic procedures

2023 PERFORMANCE:

0.24%
NATIONAL BENCHMARK UNDER:
1%

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovations in pediatric gastroenterology and GI surgery: 2024 year in review

This past year, the Gastroenterology department at Children’s Medical Center Dallas, part of Children’s Health, has led innovations transforming pediatric GI care. In partnership with UT Southwestern, we’re proud to share these advancements – which highlight our ongoing mission to make life better for children. Through groundbreaking clinical trials, new treatments and pioneering programs – we continue to be recognized among the nation’s best children’s hospitals.

Read about our latest innovations in pediatric gastroenterology and GI surgery below:

Podcast: Introducing a new blood test to diagnose biliary atresia

Early diagnosis of biliary atresia (BA) is critical to help children avoid liver failure. But differentiating BA from other causes of neonatal cholestasis is slow and difficult. Experts at Children’s Health developed a new blood test to speed up the process. The test measures matrix metalloproteinase-7 (MMP-7), an enzyme proven to be a reliable biomarker for BA. Children’s Health is currently the only health system offering this blood test but has made it accessible to physicians nationwide via an online requisition form.

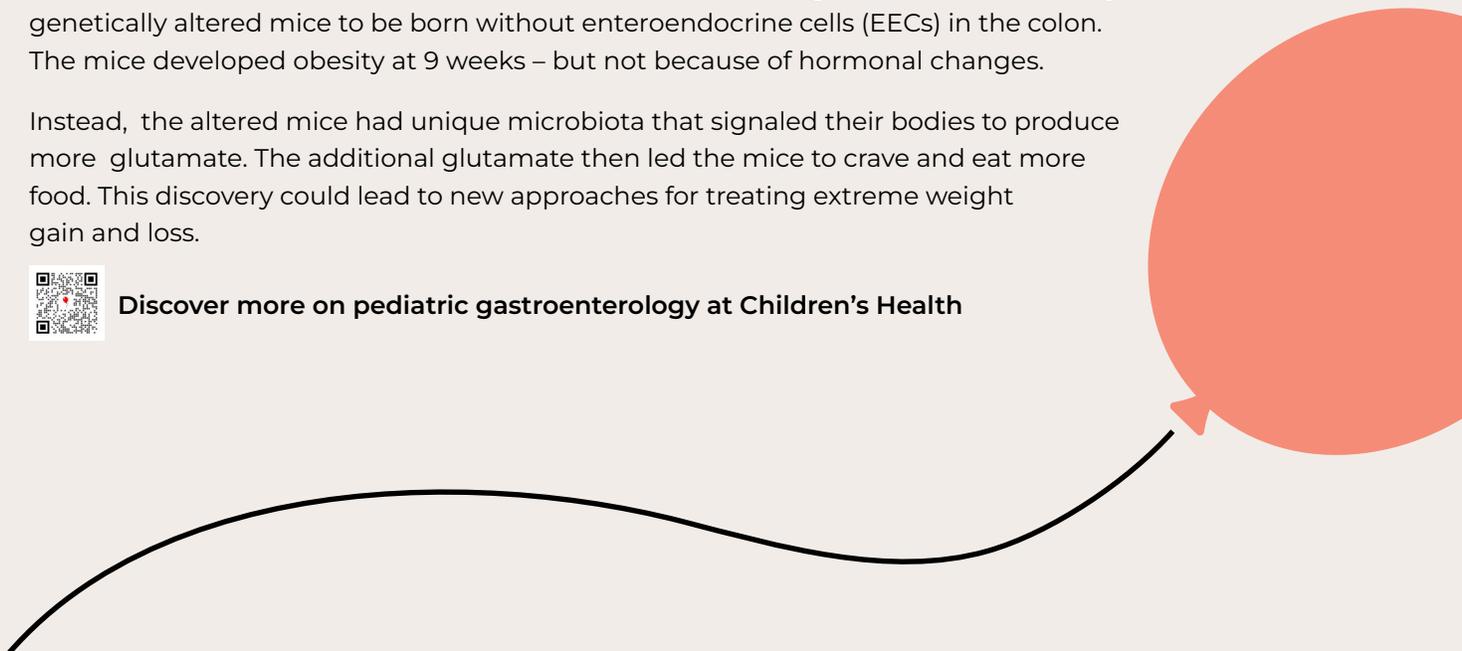
Groundbreaking study uncovers new links between gut bacteria, appetite and obesity

Researchers at Children’s Health discovered a new facet of the gut-brain axis when they genetically altered mice to be born without enteroendocrine cells (EECs) in the colon. The mice developed obesity at 9 weeks – but not because of hormonal changes.

Instead, the altered mice had unique microbiota that signaled their bodies to produce more glutamate. The additional glutamate then led the mice to crave and eat more food. This discovery could lead to new approaches for treating extreme weight gain and loss.



Discover more on pediatric gastroenterology at Children’s Health



Neurology and Neurosurgery

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION CHIEFS

We share a collective commitment to shaping the future of pediatric neurological and neurosurgical care through innovation, collaboration and clinical excellence. Over the past 25 years, our divisions have remained at the forefront of advancements in the treatment of rare and complex conditions. For example, our pediatric neuromuscular program pioneered breakthroughs in the care of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a progressive and devastating disorder. The team was instrumental in clinical trials that led to the approval of the first gene therapy for DMD, offering hope by slowing disease progression and improving quality of life.

Similarly, the pediatric neurosurgery division has led groundbreaking efforts in cerebrovascular care, epilepsy surgery and the surgical management of hydrocephalus, complex spinal and craniofacial disorders. Our Center for Cerebrovascular Disorders in Children provides lifesaving interventions for arteriovenous malformations and other vascular anomalies and is a national leader in epilepsy surgery, advancing techniques that restore seizure-free lives. Innovative programs like Transition of Care ensure seamless care and support for adolescents and young adults with hydrocephalus and epilepsy.

Our neurosurgery division has also achieved some of the lowest ventriculoperitoneal (VP) shunt infection rates nationally, reflecting our dedication to quality and safety. Furthermore, we offer comprehensive, multidisciplinary care for patients with brain tumors, integrating surgical expertise with advanced radiation techniques, precision radiosurgery and innovative clinical trials.

We are proud to be one of the country's largest treatment sites for DMD gene therapy, having treated nine patients to date, while simultaneously expanding our neurosurgical programs in cerebrovascular care and epilepsy surgery. Our minimally invasive and precision-based approaches have transformed outcomes for children with hydrocephalus, craniofacial anomalies and epilepsy. Each of these accomplishments reflects our expert teams' commitment to advancing the fields of pediatric neurology and neurosurgery. We are equally dedicated to training the next generation of specialists and fostering collaboration to ensure our patients receive care at the leading edge of innovation.

From groundbreaking gene therapies to transformative surgical care, our program remains steadfast in delivering the highest level of expertise, compassion and innovation. We are honored to serve our patients across the spectrum of care and look forward to continuing to redefine excellence in pediatric medicine.

Sincerely,



Berge Minassian,
M.D.



Brad Weprin,
M.D., MHCM



OUTCOMES

Unplanned returns to OR following craniotomy

2023 PERFORMANCE:

1.26%

**NATIONAL BENCHMARK:
LESS THAN**

3%

Achieving Engel class 1-2 after 12 months post temporal lobe epilepsy surgery.

2023 PERFORMANCE:

100%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK:

80%

Achieving Engel class 1-2 after 12 months post hemispherectomy

2023 PERFORMANCE:

100%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK:

90%

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovations in pediatric neurology and neurosurgery: 2024 year in review

This past year, the neurology and neurosurgery department at Children's Medical Center Dallas, part of Children's Health, has led innovations transforming pediatric neurology and neurosurgery care. In partnership with UT Southwestern, we're proud to share these advancements – which highlight our ongoing mission to make life better for children. Through groundbreaking clinical trials, new treatments and pioneering programs – we continue to be recognized among the nation's best children's hospitals.

Read about our latest innovations in pediatric neurology and neurosurgery below:

Using intra-arterial chemotherapy (IAC) to treat retinoblastoma in children

IAC delivers chemotherapy directly to retinoblastomas, improving outcomes and reducing the need for eye removal. Children's Health and UT Southwestern are among the few centers in the country able to offer this complex therapy, which requires expertise from specialists in pediatric oncology, endovascular neurosurgery, ophthalmology and neuroradiology. Together, the team is saving children's eyes and vision.

Identifying the most effective surgery for Chiari malformations

Large retrospective studies by pediatric neurosurgeons at Children's Health and UT Southwestern are helping pinpoint which surgical approach for Chiari malformations will lead to the best outcomes for each patient. Their findings contradict current concerns in the field that more invasive surgeries have a higher risk of complications. The studies found that more invasive procedures, like posterior fossa decompression with duraplasty and tonsil resection, led to greater symptom reduction and syrinx resolution but did not increase surgical complications.

New treatment improves quality of life for children with DMD

Children's Health is one of the few centers in the U.S. approved to offer Elevidys, a new, game-changing gene replacement therapy that can reduce the devastating impacts of DMD with just one dose. The team at Children's Health and UT Southwestern are actively engaged in research that is improving the future for children with DMD, including clinical trials for gene replacement therapies, new corticosteroids and other treatments.



Discover more on pediatric neurology and neurosurgery at Children's Health

Neonatal

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION CHIEF

While our Neonatology patients are the smallest in the Children's Health system, they are also the most resilient. The division's commitment matches our patients' resolve, providing the highest-quality care during their critical first days, weeks and months of their lives.

Our Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) supports innovative programs like our Neonatal Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) program, our nationally recognized Neonatal Cardiac program and one of five NeuroNICU programs in the U.S. dedicated to improving neurological and developmental outcomes for infants with brain injuries.

Through our robust Fetus to Five program, we support newborn brain health at every stage. Our network covers 1 in 20 deliveries in Texas and 1 in 200 in the U.S. We established the first and only Fetal and Neonatal Developmental NeuroNICU in Texas, providing care collaboration across 20,000 births annually.

The Fetal Evaluation and Treatment Alliance (FETAL) Center serves families and their babies with expert care to treat even the most complex prenatal conditions. Partnering with more than 50 specialties, we offer multidisciplinary care for high-risk cases. We continue supporting our patients by providing comprehensive care through the THRIVE clinic from discharge until they reach school age.

Our collaboration with UT Southwestern Medical Center fuels ongoing research, equating to the best possible care for mothers and babies. Our division's physician-scientists conduct NIH-funded research on preventing brain injury and have changed the paradigm of care for newborns with hypoxic-ischemic-encephalopathy (HIE), a once untreatable condition that now has a proven intervention.

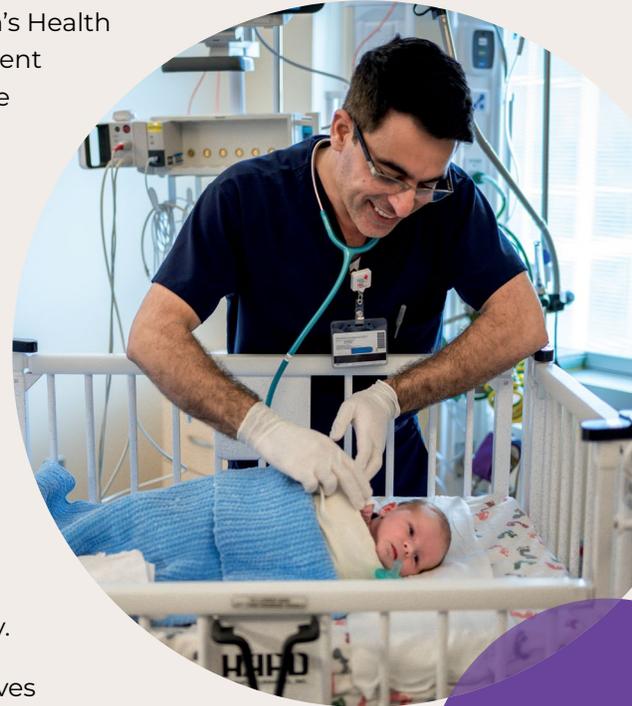
We are one of a few programs in the country to receive accreditation for Neonatal Neurocritical Care subspecialty fellowship training. Our partnerships with Population Health, Bioinformatics and the O'Donnell Brain Institute enable us to train neurologists, neonatologists and neonatal neurologists to manage the unique needs of babies with brain injury, increasing the number of highly skilled specialists who serve this population.

From prenatal diagnosis to long-term follow-up, we integrate leading-edge research, clinical innovation and mission-driven care to improve outcomes for newborns so they can THRIVE to their best potential.

Sincerely,



Lina Chalak,
M.D., MSCS
William Buchanan
Endowed Chair



OUTCOMES

Breast milk error rate

2023 PERFORMANCE:

0%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK: LESS THAN

0.25%

% of infants on breast milk at discharge

2023 PERFORMANCE:

83%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK:

80%

of temperatures under 36 degrees Celsius from OR

2023 PERFORMANCE:

3.71%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK: LESS THAN

10%

Unplanned extubation rate

2023 PERFORMANCE:

0.48

NATIONAL BENCHMARK: LESS THAN

0.5

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovations in neonatal care: 2024 year in review

This past year, the Neonatology department at Children’s Medical Center Dallas, part of Children’s Health, has led innovations transforming neonatal-perinatal care. In partnership with UT Southwestern, we’re proud to share these advancements – which highlight our ongoing mission to make life better for children. Through groundbreaking clinical trials, new treatments and pioneering programs – we continue to be recognized among the nation’s best children’s hospitals.

Read about our latest innovations in pediatric neonatology below:

Integrating perinatal mental health screening into fetal cardiac care

Mental health conditions are the #1 health complication for caregivers during pregnancy and early childhood. In 2023, the Fetal Heart Program at Children’s Health became one of the few places in the U.S. to offer mental health screening to all birthing persons referred to the clinic. Based on the screening, patients are connected with a social worker and resources tailored to their needs.

Podcast: Leading the way to better brain health for fragile newborns

The NeuroNICU program at Children’s Health goes above and beyond standard neonatal care to help preterm and other fragile newborns grow up with the healthiest brains and fewest limitations possible. It’s the only program of its kind in Texas and one of very few in the nation, combining expert care with innovative research and fellowship opportunities that move the field forward. The team’s dedication and expertise led to jaw-dropping outcomes, including babies born at 23 weeks meeting every developmental milestone.

Advancing research and treatments for newborns with HIE

Researchers at Children’s Health and UT Southwestern are identifying which factors put babies at risk of hypoxia-ischemia encephalopathy (HIE) at birth – and how providers can deliver lifesaving care. A new study of more than 150,000 births over a 15-year period found that 54% of HIE diagnoses occurred in males – proving for the first time that sex is a risk factor. Another study will explore whether therapeutic hypothermia treatment will improve cognitive and language outcomes in children with mild HIE.



Learn more about innovations in neonatal care at Children’s Health

Orthopedics

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION CHIEF

From straightforward broken bones to complex musculoskeletal infection, the Orthopedics division is consistently recognized both nationally and internationally. Together with our partners at Scottish Rite for Children, *U.S. News & World Report* has recognized our division as a top five program for more than a decade.



With our patients as our motivation, we consistently seek opportunities to improve and provide the next level of care.

In conjunction with our pediatric Emergency Department and pediatric trauma surgery colleagues, our department provides world-class care for pediatric trauma patients in North Texas and beyond. Serving one of the highest volumes of pediatric fractures in the country, our highly specialized surgeons and advanced practice providers have expertise in all facets of orthopaedic trauma injuries, from routine fracture cast care to complex limb reconstruction. Our unique orthopedic oncology program is transforming the outlook of lifesaving and limb-salvaging options for patients facing a sarcoma diagnosis. We are home to the only surgeon in North Texas to operate using magnetic expandable growing endoprostheses. This innovative approach allows the prostheses to grow with a patient, making a substantial impact on long-term surgical recovery. Additionally, this team is achieving outstanding outcomes through innovative reconstructive surgeries, utilizing the patient's own fibula and growth plate.

Another innovation is our pilot use of a brace for femur fractures for our toddler and preschool-age patients. This allows quicker discharge following brace fitting and eliminates the need for extensive education on car seat safety and patient hygiene necessary when a traditional full-body cast is used.

On a larger scale, Children's Health has initiated a Quality/National Excellence Council to utilize continuous improvement principles to elevate the patient care we provide. Over the next year, our division will deploy a series of process improvements to optimize multidisciplinary care under anesthesia and develop a method of rapid categorization for cases with Acute Hematogenous Osteomyelitis, among other measures. The recognition of our division's steadfast commitment to our patients motivates us to continually strive for the highest-quality clinical care.

Sincerely,



Christine Ho,
M.D.

OUTCOMES

OR start times under 18 hours for operative reduction and fixation of supracondylar fractures of the humerus.

2023 PERFORMANCE:

95%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK:

90%

OR start times under 18 hours for isolated femoral shaft fractures

2023 PERFORMANCE:

91%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK:

90%



Discover more on pediatric orthopedic care at Children's Health



Nephrology

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION CHIEF

The kidneys are small yet mighty organs with a tremendous impact on overall health. Our division is dedicated to supporting every aspect of pediatric nephrology care, from the laboratory bench to the patients' bedside.

As home to one of the country's largest pediatric dialysis programs, we strive to create an attentive, welcoming environment for our patients and families by embracing a multidisciplinary approach. Our team of specialized nurses, social workers, dietitians, pharmacists, psychologists, music therapists and Child Life specialists collaborate to create a positive experience for the patients in our care multiple hours each week.

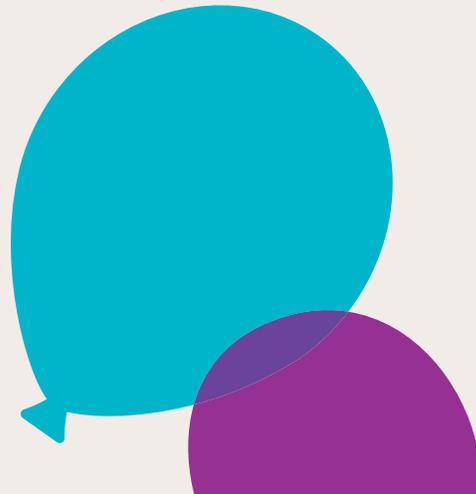
With multiple National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research projects and internal grants from UT Southwestern underway, physicians within the division are in constant pursuit of advancing the scientific field, working toward better treatments and seeking long-term cures. These include looking into the impact of fibroblast growth factor 23 on morbidity and mortality of patients with kidney disease, as well as how tools in developmental nephrology can improve the understanding of Wilms tumor biology.

Looking ahead to the future of pediatric Nephrology at Children's Health, we are excited to continue developing our Acute Care Nephrology Program for continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) patients as well as a joint cardiorenal program with our colleagues in The Heart Center. By transforming the discoveries from our clinical investigations into leading-edge treatments for our patients, we are continually motivated by our shared mission to make life better for children.

Sincerely,



Jyothsna Gattineni,
M.D.



OUTCOMES

Biopsy complication rate

2023 PERFORMANCE:

1.12%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK:

LESS THAN

2%

Survival rate for ESRD patients undergoing maintenance dialysis.

2023 PERFORMANCE:

100%

NATIONAL BENCHMARK:

95%

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovations in pediatric nephrology: 2024 year in review

This past year, the Nephrology department at Children’s Medical Center Dallas, part of Children’s Health, has led innovations transforming pediatric nephrology care. In partnership with UT Southwestern, we’re proud to share these advancements – which highlight our ongoing mission to make life better for children. Through groundbreaking clinical trials, new treatments and pioneering programs – we continue to be recognized among the nation’s best children’s hospitals.

Read about our latest innovations in pediatric nephrology below:

Comprehensive renal testing informs care for better outcomes

Hydration, growth spurts and bone density can impact renal test results and overall kidney function. At Children’s Health, Glofil tests and DEXA scans are used to accurately measure renal function. These tests inform personalized treatment plans and help physicians avoid unnecessary interventions.

Podcast: Identifying acetaminophen-induced metabolic acidosis

Physicians are aware of acetaminophen overdose, but many don’t realize that therapeutic levels of acetaminophen can cause problems for some at-risk patients. Acetaminophen-induced acidosis is a rare and significantly underdiagnosed condition. Children with risk factors such as malnutrition, infection, kidney failure or liver failure are more susceptible. In this podcast episode, learn how pyroglutamic acidosis can occur with acetaminophen administration and what signs to look for to prevent metabolic acidosis.



Discover more advancements in pediatric nephrology at Children’s Health



Pulmonology and Lung Surgery

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION CHIEF

As champions for innovative technologies in pulmonology, advocacy for access to treatments and clinical excellence for our patients, the Pulmonology division is dedicated to making life better for children. From common conditions like asthma to complex diagnoses like primary ciliary dyskinesia, our physicians treat each patient with a dedicated approach to specialized care and support for their well-being. Partnering with local school districts and state legislators, members of our division were key advocates in achieving state-wide availability of Albuterol in public schools to support the pediatric asthmatic population throughout Texas and prevent death from severe asthma.

In support of our complex and chronically ill patients, we leverage leading-edge approaches and multidisciplinary collaboration to improve care. One such intervention was created to shorten the length of stay for sickle cell patients admitted with respiratory illnesses. By using positive pressure ventilation early in illness, patients can spend less time in the hospital. Getting patients back to their normal lives is paramount and a proven measure of positive outcomes.

Our cystic fibrosis (CF) clinic received the Excellence in Clinical Leadership Award from UT Southwestern Medical Center for our long-standing pursuit of excellence in cystic fibrosis outcomes. We continue to achieve superior outcomes for our CF patients, particularly in the forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1), which is a critical measure of pulmonary function.

Our dedicated physicians are also committed to training the next generation of pediatric pulmonologists, sharing their expertise and passion as we pioneer a bright future for pulmonology care.

Sincerely,



Andrew Gelfand, M.D.



OUTCOMES

Asthma readmissions
(seven- and 30-day)

2023 PERFORMANCE:

0.8% **1.4%**
(seven-day) + (30 day)

Oral glucose tests for CF patients

2023 PERFORMANCE:

86%

**NATIONAL BENCHMARK:
GREATER THAN**

75%

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovations in pediatric pulmonology and lung surgery: 2024 year in review

This past year, the Pulmonology department at Children's Medical Center Dallas, part of Children's Health, has led innovations transforming pediatric pulmonology care. In partnership with UT Southwestern, we're proud to share these advancements – which highlight our ongoing mission to make life better for children. Through groundbreaking clinical trials, new treatments and pioneering programs – we continue to be recognized among the nation's best children's hospitals.

Read about our latest innovations in pediatric pulmonology and lung surgery below:

Establishing a novel treatment for children with SCD-induced hypoxemia

Children's Health is standardizing and evaluating a new treatment introduced for sickle cell-induced hypoxemia. The approach combines nighttime use of a BiPAP and six months of weekly respiratory physical therapy to improve a patient's diaphragmatic breathing. The team observed that patients following the protocol had fewer hospitalizations and better quality of life.

Helping children with complex pulmonary hypertension thrive

As the only pulmonary hypertension (PH) program in North Texas, Children's Health specializes in identifying the underlying cause of each patient's disease and providing treatment that addresses their specific needs. The team offers the full range of PH medications, many of which require specialized training due to their potency and potential side effects. This team's approach and expertise is helping many patients get back to breathing on their own and improving their long-term prognosis.

Changing parental behaviors lowers the risk of SUID

The ABCs of safe sleep practices are easy to remember, but getting an infant's caregivers to follow them can be hard. Experts at the Children's Health Sleep Disorders Center, the largest program in North Texas accredited by the AMSM, suggest a three-pronged approach: pediatricians and obstetricians should start talking to expectant parents as soon as possible about safe sleep practices; identify and educate all an infant's caregivers; and be receptive to a family's concerns and meet parents where they are. These tips can help you help parents make healthy choices.



Discover more on innovations in pediatric pulmonology at Children's Health

Urology

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION CHIEF

From treating common conditions with advanced technologies to leading research efforts alongside our academic colleagues at UT Southwestern Medical Center, the Urology division mobilizes diverse perspectives and expert knowledge to make life better for patients across the spectrum of case complexity.

As a national leader in minimally invasive and robotic surgery, each surgeon on our team is certified in the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System. We are home to one of the country's highest volumes of laparoscopic and robotic surgeries for pediatric urology conditions.

Another key to our success in achieving positive patient outcomes is utilizing the expertise of our colleagues through a multidisciplinary approach. The Comprehensive Stone Center is the only program of its kind in North Texas, bolstered by partnerships from our nephrology and nutrition colleagues, as well as skilled nursing support. This includes treating the largest stones through mini percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PCNL) and extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy (ESWL), leading-edge treatments that allow our patients to recover quickly under the supervision of our highly specialized team.

The deep knowledge of the intricacies of urological conditions positions our team to be key experts in diagnosing little-known diseases. Hypotonia, ataxia and delayed development syndrome (HADDS) is a recently defined neurodevelopmental condition our team encountered through expert examination in pursuit of a diagnosis for a patient family. Through genetic testing and analysis of urinary dysfunction, our division led the patient's family to the clarity of a diagnosis and comfort of specialized collaborative treatment, including support from our neurology, occupational therapy, gastroenterology and ophthalmology colleagues. Acknowledging the lifelong impact of resolution and management of pediatric urological conditions, our division takes great pride in shaping healthy outcomes for our patients.

Sincerely,



Craig Peters, M.D.



OUTCOMES

Unplanned hospital admissions for a urologic issue within 30 days after a scheduled IP urological surgical procedure

2023 PERFORMANCE:

0.9%

Unplanned hospital admissions for a urologic issue within 30 days after a scheduled OP urological surgical procedure

2023 PERFORMANCE:

0.03%

**NATIONAL BENCHMARK:
LESS THAN**

0.12%

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovations in pediatric urology: 2024 year in review

This past year, urologists at Children's Medical Center Dallas, part of Children's Health, have led innovations transforming pediatric urology care. In partnership with UT Southwestern, we're proud to share these advancements – which highlight our ongoing mission to make life better for children. Through groundbreaking clinical trials, new treatments and pioneering programs – we continue to be recognized among the nation's best children's hospitals.

Read about our latest innovations in pediatric urology below:

Early insights about urinary abnormalities in HADDs

Hypotonia, ataxia and delayed development syndrome (HADDs) is a neurodevelopmental condition still largely unknown across the medical community. Patients often have vesicoureteral reflux and other urinary abnormalities, similar to those of spina bifida. Treating these specific needs is critical to minimize the risk of urinary tract infection, kidney scarring and renal function deterioration. A case study at Children's Health reveals the complex nuances of identifying and treating HADDs.

Preparing young adults with spina bifida for a future on their own

Patients with spina bifida often struggle to find specialized care when they leave the pediatric setting, risking acute renal issues later in life. Urologists at Children's Health created the Transitional Spina Bifida program to extend care into young adulthood, connect patients with adult providers and prepare them to manage their own care as adults. The program includes personalized support for patients' sexual health and a dedicated social worker to help them navigate medications, insurance and other challenges.



Learn more about innovations in pediatric urology at Children's Health

Endocrinology

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIVISION CHIEF

As new treatments and technological advances emerge in the world of pediatric endocrinology, our division is consistently among the first to utilize leading-edge approaches to serve our patients.

Starting with an early type 1 diabetes (T1D) diagnosis, teplizumab treatment can delay the development of clinically apparent (stage 3) type 1 diabetes by an average of two years. Offering a slower progression into the disease allows more time for patient and family education and monitoring and building specialized knowledge to promote positive patient outcomes.

Technology is invigorating the future of type 1 diabetes management. We are the only pediatric center in the country to utilize the Rimidi remote patient monitoring platform, equipping our physicians with real-time glucose data for each patient. The use of highly intelligent “closed loop” insulin pumps is changing the lives of our patients and their families.

The treatments and technologies available today help us to care for our patients and keep them on track for healthy lifestyles. Physician-scientists within our division are in constant pursuit of new information to further support our patients through research. Our investigation into predicting complications of diabetic ketoacidosis during the COVID-19 pandemic was published in *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* earlier this year.

The dedication to serving our patients with specialized care at every stage of their unique endocrinology journey is a key differentiator to the industry-leading care we provide.

Sincerely,



Perrin White, M.D.

OUTCOMES

% of patients with social worker or psychological assessment

2023 PERFORMANCE:

100%

Type 2 with microalbuminuria screening in the last calendar year

2023 PERFORMANCE:

83%

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovations in pediatric endocrinology: 2024 year in review

This past year, the Endocrinology department at Children's Medical Center Dallas, part of Children's Health, has led innovations transforming care in pediatric endocrinology. In partnership with UT Southwestern, we're proud to share these advancements – which highlight our ongoing mission to make life better for children. Through groundbreaking clinical trials, new treatments and pioneering programs – we continue to be recognized among the nation's best children's hospitals.

Read about our latest innovations in pediatric endocrinology below:

Advancing a groundbreaking treatment that delays Stage 3 T1D

In September 2023, Children's Health became one of the first centers in the country to provide Tzield® to a pediatric patient. This ground-breaking monoclonal antibody treatment helps delay the onset of Stage 3 T1D by an average of two years. Delaying the onset of Stage 3 T1D gives patients more time before they need insulin. Tzield also gives primary care providers incentive to screen for T1D sooner, which can help patients avoid complications like diabetic ketoacidosis.

Pioneering a novel treatment for FCS, a devastating genetic condition

Children's Health and UT Southwestern introduced the nation's first clinical study of Orlistat as a treatment for children and adults with familial chylomicronemia syndrome (FCS) – a rare genetic disorder that inhibits the body's ability to absorb dietary fat. The study was spurred by research findings suggesting that orlistat (the popular weight loss drug that treats obesity) could lower triglyceride levels caused by FCS. There are currently no FDA-approved treatments for FCS. The study is still enrolling patients.

Podcast: Digital technology improves management of T1D

Exciting new digital technologies – like wearable continuous glucose monitors and insulin pumps – can help manage pediatric diabetes. Compared to traditional methods, these digital advances offer notable improvements because they are easy to use and operate automatically. These devices also capture valuable data that can help providers identify patients struggling to maintain healthy blood sugar levels. In this podcast episode, learn how you can adopt these advances for patient care.



Discover more innovations in pediatric endocrinology at Children's Health

Behavioral Health

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROGRAM LEADERS

Pediatric and adolescent behavioral health is a growing specialty, both in size and complexity, as the demand increases for psychological and psychiatric support. Our division embraces a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to provide compassionate and highly specialized care to treat a wide range of behavioral health-related conditions.

Pediatric psychology providers are embedded in 19 different clinical programs, serving patients at Children's Medical Center Dallas, Children's Medical Center Plano and several other locations throughout North Texas. Through our advocacy for access to personalized care, our division saw more than 19,000 patient visits by nearly 6,000 unique patients in 2023 alone. As an added benefit to our patients, our Neuropsychology program is one of few programs in the country offering bilingual clinical services and training in both Spanish and English for pediatric neuropsychological evaluation.

We believe collaboration is key to improving behavioral health patient outcomes. Together with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, Children's Health launched the Behavioral Health Integration and Guidance (BHIG) Initiative in 2022 to train and empower primary care providers to detect and treat common mental health conditions in children. We also partner with multiple school districts to provide nearly 800 School-based Telebehavioral Health sites throughout the region.

By meeting our patients where they are physically through improved access to care and emotionally through compassionate expertise, we strive to create a healthier future for children facing behavioral health needs.

Sincerely,



Richard Adams, M.D.
Developmental
Behavioral Pediatrics



Jim Norcross, M.D.
Psychiatry



Lana Harder, Ph.D.,
ABPP
Neuropsychology



Celia Heppner, Psy.D.,
ABPP
Psychology



OUTCOMES

Only 6% of our ED patients become psychiatric boarders, which places us in the

32nd
percentile for
boarder volume

BH patients presenting to the ED, received a consultation within two hours 72% of the time,

placing us at the
64th
percentile

We had 1,095 patients on antipsychotic medications, and we successfully completed metabolic screening for 65%,

which places us at the
80th
percentile for successful
medication management.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Innovations in pediatric behavioral health: 2024 year in review

This past year, the behavioral health department at Children's Medical Center Dallas, part of Children's Health, has led innovations transforming pediatric behavioral health care. In partnership with UT Southwestern, we're proud to share these advancements – which highlight our ongoing mission to make life better for children. Through groundbreaking clinical trials, new treatments and pioneering programs – we continue to be recognized among the nation's best children's hospitals.

Read about our latest innovations in pediatric and adolescent behavioral health below:

Training community providers to deliver mental health services

A new initiative from Children's Health and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute is increasing access to front-line mental health services for children and teens. The initiative trains primary care providers throughout the country to identify and treat common mental health issues – like stress, anxiety and depression – so kids can get the interventions they need without the typical months-long wait for access. In its first year, 75 providers in Texas received training and have served more than 150,000 families.

Recognizing ADHD earlier improves support and treatment

Discover effective methods that can identify first signs that a child is struggling with age-appropriate behaviors that may warrant an ADHD screening. Early behavioral support for both patient and family are known to make a big difference for preschool-age children. Research continues to show that a combination of behavioral support and attention-enhancing medication is most effective for children elementary school-age and older.

Supporting quality of life from the get-go for children with heart conditions

The Cardiac Neurodevelopmental program at Children's Health, one of the first of its kind in Texas, recently added four patient-centered improvements aimed at mitigating the cognitive, developmental and behavioral challenges children with heart conditions face. The initiatives improve care through developmental transitions, early screening for known risks, standardization of ongoing care, and speaking to patients and families in their dominant language.



Discover more innovations in pediatric behavioral health at Children's Health



UT Southwestern
Medical Center™

Find out more about our nationally recognized care
at [childrens.com/excellence](https://www.childrens.com/excellence).

