Tampa General Hospital’s Children’s Medical Center (CMC) is designed just for pediatric patients and their families. Our dedicated team of healthcare professionals is committed to caring for children and provides a comprehensive range of medical, surgical and rehabilitative services for infants, children and adolescents.
From emergency services to pediatric rehabilitation, the Children's Medical Center delivers specialized care tailored exclusively to pediatric patients. Pediatric specialties include:

- Cardiology (non-invasive)
- Critical Care
- Emergency Medicine
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- Hematology
- Infectious Diseases
- Neonatology
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Pathology
- Plastic Surgery
- Pulmonology
- Radiology
- Rehab/Physiatry
- Surgery
- Transplantation (kidney)

Families are considered an important part of the CMC healthcare team. We encourage their involvement and welcome parents to be with their children 24-hours a day. One parent may sleep at the child's bedside at night and healthy brothers and sisters are encouraged to visit.

The Children's Medical Center stresses an integrated approach to care that addresses children's psychological, social and developmental needs in addition to medical treatment. Team members include pediatricians, pediatric specialists, pediatric surgeons, neonatal and pediatric advanced registered nurse practitioners, child life specialists, pharmacists and pediatric respiratory, speech, physical, and occupational therapists.

The environment within the Children's Medical Center is designed with children and their families in mind. With 50 beds in private and semi-private rooms, comfort and convenience are evident with TVs, DVD players and chairs that convert to beds for parents.

Certified child life specialists provide activities to meet the psychological and social needs of hospitalized children. Supervised medical play helps prepare children for tests, procedures and surgery and also reduces their stress. Child life specialists may go into surgery with children to ease their fears. Upon request, tours of the Children's Medical Center are provided in preparation for a hospital stay.

Because Tampa General Hospital serves as the primary teaching hospital for the University of South Florida College of Medicine, resident physicians and nursing students may be involved in patient care within the CMC. These physicians and students work under the direct supervision of attending physicians and nurse preceptors.
From Trauma to Rehabilitation, the Children’s Medical Center delivers specialized care tailored exclusively to pediatric patients.
Our services include:

**Pediatric Emergency Care & Trauma Center**
Because children are different from adults, they have their own specialized emergency room with equipment designed just for them. Our state-approved pediatric trauma referral center is staffed with physicians and nurses who specialize in pediatric emergency medicine. As a trauma center, specialists, including pediatric surgeons and pediatric neurosurgeons, provide the highest level of trauma care for children.

**Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)**
This nine-bed unit is dedicated to the most critically ill or injured children. Our PICU is one of just a few statewide that provides continuous renal replacement therapies (CRRT).

**Pediatric Rehabilitation Program**
Children who have brain, spinal cord or other neurological injuries receive rehabilitation services in the Children's Medical Center. TGH is one of just three Florida Department of Health designated pediatric brain and spinal cord injury rehabilitation centers in the state. A pediatric gym equipped with child-sized rehabilitation equipment allows young rehab patients to work on developing strength, coordination, balance, and cognitive skills. The following pediatric rehabilitation programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF): brain injury rehabilitation, comprehensive inpatient, interdisciplinary pain rehabilitation, and spinal cord system of care.

**Pediatric Transplantation**
Established in 1983, the CMC’s kidney transplantation program is one of just five in Florida and is the busiest in West Central Florida. Our program exceeds national survival rates.

**Pediatric Surgery**
The CMC offers a full range of in- and outpatient pediatric surgeries, including procedures for:
- all congenital anomalies of the head, neck, thorax, abdomen, and perineum
- all solid tumors of childhood
- vascular access
- pediatric endocrine disorders
- pediatric injuries and trauma
- neonatal hemorrhages and cysts
- brain and spinal cord tumors, vascular malformation and intractable epilepsy
- cerebral palsy, spasticity and movement disorders
- trauma

We provide evaluation and treatment for constructive or corrective surgery to improve the appearance and/or formation of body parts affected by birth defects, injuries, disease, or abnormal growth and development.
Pediatric Dialysis
The Children’s Medical Center’s seven-bed dialysis unit provides both hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis for children who require special treatment for chronic kidney problems or kidney transplants. School teachers on staff in the Children’s Medical Center’s Cynthia Wells King School provide schooling for patients while they’re receiving dialysis. Social workers and dietitians specializing in pediatrics also provide services for these patients. The CMC is a CMS (Children’s Medical Services) sponsored comprehensive kidney failure center.

Pediatric Burn Program
Children with burns and other serious skin wounds receive care within the CMC’s Pediatric Intensive Care Unit from a multi-disciplinary burn care team that specializes in burn treatment. TGH is one of just four burn centers in Florida and the first burn center in the state to earn Verification by the American Burn Association/American College of Surgeons. This distinction means the center has met stringent guidelines for patient care procedures, facilities and staffing. Our burn program has also received disease-specific certification from The Joint Commission.

The care of our pediatric burn patients continues at our Outpatient Hand and Burn therapy center located in South Tampa. Occupational therapists develop an individualized treatment program designed to meet the specific needs of each child. Customized pressure therapy garments are also made.

Once discharged, our pediatric patients are invited to attend Camp Hopetake, a weeklong summer camp for children who have survived burn injuries. Tampa General Hospital and Tampa firefighters and paramedics sponsor the camp.
Neonatal Transport Team
Our neonatal transport team travels aboard TGH’s medical helicopters or via ambulance to provide care during transport. This team includes a registered nurse and a respiratory therapist, specially trained to stabilize and transfer sick newborns to Tampa General from other hospitals in the region.

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
Premature infants and critically ill newborns are cared for in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Neonatologists from the University of South Florida College of Medicine and nurses trained in neonatal critical care staff our Level III NICU. (Level III is the highest rating available.) Parents are welcome to visit their infants 24-hours a day. Tampa General is one of just 11 Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Centers designated by the State of Florida to deliver the highest level of medical care to premature and sick infants and to women with high-risk pregnancies.

Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation
Tampa General is one of just eight hospitals in Florida that provides extra corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), a life-saving treatment for newborns with severe breathing difficulties. Similar to a heart-lung bypass machine, ECMO allows an infant’s lungs to rest and heal while the machine exchanges oxygen and carbon dioxide in the infant’s blood.

Integrative Medicine
The Integrative Medicine Program works with pediatric patients and their families to provide relief from pain, anxiety, nausea, and stress using age-appropriate mind-body therapies. Therapies may include calming touch, soothing images, and relaxing music.
As a leading academic medical center, our healthcare team is comprised of the highest-caliber professionals who are dedicated to providing the best possible medical care in an atmosphere that attends to children’s psychological, social and developmental needs.

Our designation as a Magnet hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) recognizes our excellence in nursing care.
Our team includes:

**Physicians**
Physicians who care for our pediatric patients include: pediatricians, pediatric specialists, intensivists, pediatric surgeons, pediatric neurosurgeons, neonatologists, physiatrists and hospitalists. Many of our pediatricians and pediatric specialists are full-time faculty or hold faculty appointments at the University of South Florida College of Medicine. To locate a physician on-staff at TGH, call our PhysicianFinder Referral Service at 1-800-822-DOCS (3627).

**Neonatal and Pediatric Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP)**
Nurse practitioners are registered nurses with advanced training who work with physicians in the medical management of newborns, children and adolescents.

**Nursing Educators**
These professionals provide educational programs on aspects of pediatric care for nurses and nursing students. This allows our nursing staff to constantly upgrade their skills and provide high-level, progressive nursing care.

**Registered Nurses (RN)**
In addition to patient care duties, RNs work with physicians in developing care plans for each patient. RNs caring for pediatric inpatients are certified in pediatric advanced life support and RNs in the NICU are certified in neonatal resuscitation.

**Pediatric Social Workers**
Working with patients, families, medical and nursing staff, and social service agencies, these professionals help ensure the proper financial, psychological or medical assistance patients may need after discharge.

**Schoolteachers**
Teachers from the Hillsborough County School System staff the Cynthia Wells King School in the Children’s Medical Center and work with children in grades K–12 who will miss at least 15 days of school. These teachers coordinate and maintain homebound teaching following hospitalization. They work with local and out-of-county teachers to help patients keep up with their studies.

**Child Life Specialists**
The Children’s Medical Center and Tampa Bay Lightning Playroom are staffed by certified child life specialists who provide structured and unstructured play activities to meet children’s psychological and social needs and reduce the stress of being in the hospital.
**Pediatric Pharmacists**
Dispensing medicine for children requires an expert knowledge of pediatric medications and dosages. Our pediatric pharmacy is staffed by fellowship-trained pharmacists.

**Pediatric Occupational and Physical Therapists**
Children with impaired movement due to injury, illness, or birth defects work with physical and/or occupational therapists to improve or regain muscle strength, tone and control.

**Pediatric Speech Therapists**
Diagnosis and therapy for children with speech or swallowing disorders caused by injury, illness, or birth defects is provided by pediatric speech therapists.

**Pediatric Respiratory Therapist**
Registered respiratory therapists are specially trained to treat pediatric patients and assist in the diagnosis and treatment of breathing problems. They also provide education to patients and families related to respiratory procedures and diseases.

**Psychologists**
Psychologists help patients and families cope with the emotions associated with their illnesses or hospitalizations.

**Case Manager**
The CMC’s dedicated case manager is a liaison between the hospital and insurance companies and participates in discharge planning for patients.

**Pastoral Care**
Hospital chaplains are available 24-hours a day to provide religious and spiritual counseling for patients, families and hospital staff.

**Patient Representatives**
Our patient representatives can answer many questions during your child’s hospitalization. They can be reached at ext. 7249. Services they provide include:
- Comfort and personal support services
- Assistance with hotel accommodations
- Hospital and community resources
- Notary services for hospital related services
- Answering questions related to hospital rules and regulations
- Patient advocacy

**Clinical Dietitian**
Under a physician’s order, the clinical dietitian assesses patients’ body chemistry levels and develops nutritional programs to promote healing and manage patients’ illnesses through nutrition.

**Catering to You Associate**
This member of the dietary staff helps patients select their meals and personally delivers them. Based in the Children’s Medical Center, the Catering to You associate is available to provide menus and snacks suited to individual patients’ tastes and dietary limitations, including selections from our Food Court.
From creating comfortable surroundings to providing academic support, the Children’s Medical Center has many valuable resources for parents, patients and families.
Ronald McDonald House
The Ronald McDonald House provides a home-away-from-home for families of children being treated in the CMC.

Lightning Playroom
Furnished by a generous donation from the National Hockey League’s Tampa Bay Lightning, the Lightning Playroom in the CMC gives kids a stress-free place to play and socialize with other children. No medical procedures are permitted in the playroom!

Parent Lounge
Furnished with comfortable seating, a TV, microwave, toaster, coffee maker and well-stocked refrigerator and pantry, the lounge is a place to relax – not far from your child’s room.

CarePages
CarePages is a free service offered to patients of Tampa General Hospital. This service allows you to create private personalized Web pages to keep family and friends informed about your child’s hospitalization. The patient or their family maintains this Web page. To safeguard patients’ privacy, CMC staff cannot set up or maintain CarePages for patients. Ask your nurse for more details about the service or visit www.tgh.org.

Free Wireless Internet Access
Patients and visitors with wireless-enabled devices can access free Internet service from the CMC or any location within TGH.

PhysicianFinder
This free referral service will help find a physician on staff at TGH who can meet your needs. Call 1-800-822-DOCS or visit www.tgh.org.

For additional information about Tampa General Hospital’s Children’s Medical Center, please visit us online at www.tgh.org.