Friends,

Thank you for your interest in the Children’s Medical Center (CMC) at Tampa General Hospital. It's designed just for pediatric patients and their families. Our dedicated team of healthcare professionals provides a comprehensive range of medical, surgical and rehabilitative services for infants, children and adolescents.

Our team includes physicians, specialists, registered nurses, patient care technicians, registered respiratory therapists, physical, occupational and speech therapists, social workers, case managers, dieticians and health unit coordinators who work collaboratively to deliver individualized care to each patient. The inpatient unit includes a 43-bed pediatric medical/surgical unit, a 9-bed pediatric intensive care unit, a 12-bed transition nursery, and the 82-bed, level IV Jennifer Leigh Muma Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

TGH is the primary teaching hospital for the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine. This partnership allows us to combine our skills to deliver high quality pediatric care. Many of our programs are unique in the Tampa Bay area; some of our services are nationally recognized. We invite you to learn more about our programs. The children featured, and many others like them, are the focus of TGH Children’s Medical Center. They inspire and motivate us to keep striving for the quality that produces better outcomes.

Pamela G. Sanders MSN, RNC-NIC, CENP
Vice President
Women's & Children's Services

Patricia J. Emmanuel, MD
Chair, Department of Pediatrics,
USF Health

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Emergency Services

Pediatric Emergency & Trauma Center

Children are different from adults and need their own specialized emergency room equipped just for them. Our pediatric trauma referral center is staffed with physicians and nurses who specialize in pediatric emergency medicine.

As a level I trauma center, TGH has pediatric specialists, including surgeons and neurosurgeons, to provide the highest level of trauma care for children. TGH transports critically ill or injured patients from 23 surrounding counties aboard our four aeromedical helicopters that are equipped with the most advanced life support equipment.

TGH’s Pediatric Emergency & Trauma Center is the only center in Florida to achieve level I verification from the American College of Surgeons (ACS) for the quality of its trauma care. An ACS review team, consisting of nationally recognized experts in trauma care, performed an in-depth, on-site assessment of every aspect of TGH’s trauma program.

Connor Fields, CMC patient

In October of 2013, a passing truck trailer struck the rear wheel of Connor’s bicycle, sending him flying toward the pavement. Connor’s skull was fractured and there was bleeding inside his head. In need of a neurosurgeon, he was airlifted to TGH’s level I pediatric trauma center.

The next few days were a waiting game to see if Connor would need surgery to relieve pressure on his brain.

“Boy, that was an excruciating three days,” says his mother, Dawn. Fortunately, Connor’s head began to heal. The doctors explained to his parents what to expect next.

“The doctors warned us about the stages of healing from brain injury and gave us a lot to read,” Dawn said. It helped them understand why Connor sometimes shouted confusing things and even curse words.

Connor spent 10 days in intensive care and a total of 21 days in the hospital. “TGH was Class A, fantastic.” says Dawn. “Every person treated us with kindness, courtesy, and respect. They kept us informed and used plain, clear language. Even when there was a schedule or shift change, the doctors knew exactly what was going on. Everyone was happy and smiling and making the best of a rotten situation.”

Eighteen months later, Connor is back to being a typical young teen. He bikes, skateboards with friends and listens to heavy metal music.

“I can do everything now,” he says. “I try to focus on my future.”

For more about Connor, visit www.tgh.org/kids-connorf.
A Leader in Lifesaving Burn Care

A multi-disciplinary burn care team in the CMC Pediatric Intensive Care Unit treats children with burns and other serious skin wounds. TGH’s Regional Burn Center is one of just three in Florida, and the first 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 in our Outpatient Hand and Burn Therapy Program, located at the Outpatient Rehabilitation Services Center in South Tampa. Occupational therapists develop an individualized treatment program to meet the specific needs of each child. Customized pressure therapy garments are also available.

Once discharged, our pediatric patients are invited to attend Camp Hopetâke, a week-long summer camp for children who have survived burn injuries. The TGH Foundation and City of Tampa firefighters and paramedics sponsor the camp. TGH pediatric nurses serve as camp counselors.

TGH has four Aeromed helicopters to transport sick and critically injured patients from 23 surrounding counties.

Specialized Services

Jennifer Leigh Muma Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Premature infants and critically ill newborns are cared for in the 82-bed Jennifer Leigh Muma Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Neonatologists from USF Health and nurses trained in neonatal critical care staff our level IV NICU, the highest rating available.

TGH is one of just 12 Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Centers designated by the state to deliver the highest level of medical care to premature and sick infants and to women with high-risk pregnancies. In addition, TGH is one of just eight hospitals in Florida that provides a life-saving treatment for newborns with severe breathing difficulties. Called extra corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) and 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.

A neonatal transport team travels on TGH’s medical helicopters to deliver care during flight. This team includes a registered nurse and a respiratory therapist, trained to stabilize and transfer sick newborns from other hospitals in the region.
Neonatal Neuro-protection Program
TGH and USF Health’s Neonatal Neuro-protection Program provides therapeutic hypothermia treatment to term or near-term infants with neonatal encephalopathy. The keys to effective therapeutic hypothermia are the early assessment and recognition of appropriate patients and the rapid implementation of hypothermia therapy.

The Neonatal Neuro-protection Program is a multidisciplinary service that includes a skilled neonatal transport team, medical specialists in neonatology and neurology, specially trained nurses and respiratory therapists.

Partnership with USF Health for Neonatal Follow-up Program
TGH and USF Health have developed a joint neonatal follow-up program that:

- Helps keep babies healthy
- Watches babies develop and grow
- Provides specialty and well-child care in one practice
- Works closely to include caregivers as partners in care
- Has bilingual physicians and nurses
- Has a dedicated nurse to help with appointment scheduling and planning for care
- Works with the baby’s family and medical team to meet the baby’s needs

Pediatric Neurology Services
TGH and USF Health’s Child Neurology Program evaluates patients with a variety of neurological diseases. The most common problem seen by neurologists is seizure disorder. About 30 percent of all seizures are not controlled with available anti-seizure medications; other treatment options include ketogenic diet, vagal nerve stimulation and brain surgery, all available at TGH.

Epilepsy surgery has the highest rate of rendering a child seizure free or with significant seizure reduction. Children considered for epilepsy surgery undergo a multi-phase evaluation, including video-EEG monitoring to capture typical seizures to determine their origin in the brain. TGH’s specially equipped, child-friendly monitoring unit allows the caregiver to stay with the child throughout monitoring. Children are carefully selected for epilepsy surgery and further evaluated by a neurosurgeon before surgery.
On the Front Lines of Pediatric Cancer Research

TGH’s Children’s Medical Center offers pediatric hematology/oncology services for children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer, blood disorders, bone marrow failure, and congenital immune deficiencies. Led by USF Health, physicians and surgeons treat a variety of cancers in children of all ages. Children and adolescents can receive infusion therapy and radiation at our pediatric-friendly Day Hospital.

Patients benefit from our membership in Children’s Oncology Group (COG), a National Cancer Institute-supported clinical trials group and the world’s largest organization devoted exclusively to pediatric cancer research. COG has played a pivotal role in transforming childhood cancer from a virtually incurable disease 50 years ago to one with a combined five-year survival rate of 80 percent today.

Connor DeBoer, CMC patient

The pain started in her leg days before Connor DeBoer and her mother planned to take a road trip for their friend’s wedding. A visit to the pediatrician revealed something no one in the exam room expected: a tumor the size of a large grapefruit on Connor’s stomach, expanding from her pelvis to her belly button.

Connor was taken to TGH, where an emergency MRI confirmed the family’s growing fears. She was diagnosed with Stage IV Ewing Sarcoma, bone cancer, just a few months before her 14th birthday.

“The first three days, I had over 32 doctors coming in my room examining me because it was the biggest tumor they had seen in 10 years,” Connor said.

Connor received treatment at TGH’s Children’s Medical Center, battling through more than 20 radiation treatments. At her weakest, feeling unable to walk, eat or sleep, Connor found strength from her nurses to continue each month’s treatment.

“If they hadn’t been so positive and loving with me, I don’t think I would have made it,” Connor said. “I was so excited to go to the hospital and see them every month. There is a love that nurses have for their patients that nobody can understand.”

The treatment began to pay off. After 14 months, and one day before her 15th birthday, Connor beat the disease and was declared in remission.

Her health now returned and hair grown back, Connor remains friends with her nurses and visits them at TGH. On the DeBoer property fence, in blue spray paint, her story of triumph is commemorated with a message that her mother, Kristin, wants to share with the world:

“In 2012 my daughter survived cancer. Thank you, God!”

For more about Connor, visit www.tgh.org/kids-connord.
Full Range of Surgery Options

TGH’s pediatric surgical team, led by USF Health surgeons, performs a full range of general and specialized procedures for infants, children and adolescents. Care is designed to address the needs of children with routine to highly complex conditions occurring from infancy to adulthood, including fetal care consults. Treatment modalities and conditions managed include:

- All congenital anomalies of the head, neck, thorax, abdomen and perineum
- All solid tumors of childhood
- Vascular access
- Pediatric injuries and trauma
- Neonatal surgery for congenital and acquired conditions
- ECMO
- Minimally invasive surgery

A Day Hospital Dedicated to Pediatric Care

Our full-service Day Hospital provides patients with a child-friendly environment for procedures or radiology studies that require sedation. Anesthesia is provided under the supervision of a board-certified pediatric anesthesiologist.

Services include:

- EEGs
- Chemotherapy
- Blood transfusions
- Hydration
- Antibiotic therapy
- Wound care
- Radiology procedures that require mild sedation or anesthesia
- Other outpatient procedures that require mild sedation or anesthesia

Services are available to newborns through 21 years of age. Parents must stay with children while they are in the Day Hospital. Patients benefit from the supportive services of child life specialists while in the Day Hospital.

Our certified Child Life Specialists provide activities to help children cope with being in the hospital.
Dialysis Treatment

The CMC’s seven-bed dialysis unit provides both hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis for children who require special treatment for acute and chronic kidney problems or kidney transplants. Led by USF Health pediatric nephrologists, ours is just one of three Children’s Medical Services (CMS)-sponsored comprehensive kidney failure centers in Florida.

Our patients can keep up with their schoolwork during dialysis thanks to teachers in the CMC’s Cynthia Wells King School. Social workers and dietitians specializing in pediatrics also provide services for these patients.

Kidney Transplant Program

Established in 1983, the CMC Kidney Transplant Program is one of just five in Florida, and the only one in West Central Florida.

The CMC’s healthcare team has the highest-caliber medical professionals, including pediatric specialists for kidney transplants. TGH’s Pediatric Kidney Transplant Program is one of the busiest in the state, performing an average of 10 pediatric kidney transplantation procedures each year since 2008. This volume has helped our team gain extensive experience and ensures that the vast majority of our kidney transplants are successful. According to the most recent data from the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (January 2015), TGH’s one-year pediatric kidney transplant survival rate is 100 percent.

Kidney transplants may not be appropriate for all children diagnosed with chronic kidney disease or end-stage renal disease. However, any child diagnosed with kidney failure may be considered for further evaluation at TGH.

Metabolic Care

TGH’s Children’s Medical Center is one of only three centers in the state providing comprehensive evaluation and treatment for infants, children and adolescents who have diseases that involve metabolism.

The CMC treats a wide range of conditions considered inborn errors of metabolism including:

- Complicated biochemical abnormalities
- Conditions that may cause hypoglycemia
- Disorders of fatty acid oxidation
- Disorders of amino acid metabolism
- Organic acid disorders
- Lysosomal storage diseases
- Disorders of glycosylation
- Mitochondrial disorders
- Metabolic disorders detected in newborn screening
- Pediatric endocrine disorders

Our Metabolic Program, led by USF Health physicians, is staffed by a multidisciplinary team of experienced clinicians from a wide range of specialties – neurology, gastroenterology, nutrition, cardiology, ophthalmology, genetics, psychology and social work – who collaborate to provide the best treatment options for each patient.
Complementary Services to Benefit Every Child’s Personal Well-Being

TGH’s Integrative Medicine Program focuses on supporting whole-person health and well-being, including the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. Our team 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.

Integrative Medicine therapies effectively aid patients experiencing stress, anxiety, and acute or chronic pain by supporting:

- Comfort
- Relaxation
- Improved rest
- Clearer thinking
- Improved circulation
- Sense of well-being
- Reduced stress
- Natural healing process

Adolescent Bariatric Program

TGH and USF Health’s Adolescent Bariatric Surgery Program is a comprehensive, inter-disciplinary program that includes physicians, psychologists, dieticians, and exercise physiologists. They work together to help each patient reach their weight loss goals and provide pre- and post-operative care. To be considered for bariatric surgery, adolescents must be over the age of 16 and have a body mass index of 40 or higher.

Our services include:

- Comprehensive wellness assessment with experienced adolescent bariatric physicians, dieticians, exercise physiologists, and psychologists
- Complete pre- and post-operative care programs including medical care, nutritional intervention, and psychological assistance
- Long-term support to help ensure goals are maintained and to assist in the prevention of post-operative weight gain
- Support groups that focus on real-life issues such as how to adjust to your new body, ordering meals when eating out, nutritional supplements, and stress eating
Heather Coronado, CMC patient

The fog was heavy in the early morning, making the roadway white and driving treacherous. The next thing mom April Coronado remembers is the car slamming against a tree. Front passenger Heather was critically hurt; the airbag never opened and her seatbelt slipped, leaving her pinned beneath the dashboard.

Heather was airlifted to TGH’s level I pediatric trauma center. Doctors found broken bones in her skull, ear, and leg, plus internal organ damage. She needed several pints of transfused blood and monitoring for brain trauma. Her orthopedist put a rod and two pins in her leg. Because of injury to her spleen, she was on bed rest for several days.

Six days later, Heather was moved from the pediatric ICU to the pediatric unit. Staff gave her stuffed animals, games, and her favorite movies. With help from a physical therapist, Heather rehabilitated quickly.

“It was difficult at times,” she says. “I had to learn how to walk again and how to go upstairs. She helped me through it and told me I could do it. I just kept practicing, and it got easier.”

April is so grateful for the team at TGH. “I could not have asked for a better group of doctors. They were constantly in and out of her room; we never had to hunt for somebody,” she says. “It’s the best experience I’ve had in a hospital, ever. TGH is just an awesome hospital.”

Heather, too, has only kind words for TGH.

“I loved them. My ICU nurses Mary and Sarah always kept me smiling,” she says. “Everyone was so nice to me.”

For more about Heather, visit www.tgh.org/kids-heatherc.

Rehabilitation Designed For Kids

Children with brain, spinal cord or other neurological injuries receive rehabilitation 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.
Resources for Patients

Lightning Playroom

Furnished by a generous donation from the National Hockey League’s Tampa Bay Lightning, the Lightning Child Life Playroom (shown right) provides a stress-free place to play and socialize with other children. No medical procedures are permitted in the playroom!

The playroom, located within the Children’s Medical Center, is open Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Please contact Child Life at (813) 844-4208 regarding any special needs for you or your child.

Cynthia Wells King School:
Keeping Kids on Track With School

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 home schooling following hospitalization. They work with local and out-of-county teachers to help patients keep up with their studies.

GetWellNetwork

The GetWellNetwork, part of the patient TV system, allows our patients to play games, watch TV or movies, surf the Internet, and more. The network is available in most patient rooms and is available in Spanish.

Daycare for Sick Children

KIDCare is a daytime care center for children who must stay home because they are too sick to attend school or daycare. Space is limited and cost is based on a sliding scale rate. KIDCare accepts children who have received their first set of immunizations up to age 15. We do not permit children with communicable diseases, undiagnosed rashes, or temperatures of 102 degrees or more, unless previously seen by a physician.

Reservations must be made by calling (813) 844-7192 between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Our Dedicated Team

Affiliated with USF Health Morsani College of Medicine, our healthcare team has the highest-caliber professionals dedicated to providing the best possible medical care in an atmosphere designed for children’s psychological, social, and developmental needs. Our designation as a Magnet Hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) recognizes excellence in nursing care.

Our team includes:

- Physicians
- Neonatal and pediatric Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP)
- Nursing educators
- Registered nurses (RN)
- Pediatric social workers
- School teachers
- Child life specialists
- Pediatric pharmacists
- Pediatric occupational and physical therapists
- Pediatric respiratory therapists
- Psychologists
- Case managers
- Pastoral care staff
- Patient representatives
- Clinical dietitians
Resources for Families

The Ronald McDonald House: A Home Away from Home

The Ronald McDonald House, located on the TGH campus, provides accommodations for families of children being treated in the CMC. The Ronald McDonald House allows families to stay together in a comfortable environment while their child receives treatment. The Ronald McDonald House is owned and operated by Ronald McDonald House Charities of Tampa Bay, a not-for-profit corporation.

Parent Lounge: Somewhere You Can Take a Break

The relaxing Parent Lounge in the CMC is furnished with comfortable seating, a TV, microwave, toaster, coffee maker, well-stocked refrigerator, and pantry. For your convenience, a washer and dryer are also available in the Parent Lounge.

CaringBridge: Keep Your Loved Ones Informed

CaringBridge allows you to create a free, private, personalized website to keep family and friends informed about your child’s hospitalization. To learn more, visit tgh.org.

Free Wireless Internet Access

Patients and visitors with wireless-enabled devices can access free Internet service from any location within TGH.

Pediatric Family Advisory Council

TGH’s Pediatric Family Advisory Council (pFAC) is a diverse group of former patients’ families who meet regularly to advise TGH about ways to enhance the patient experience. TGH strives to provide more patient-centered care in an effort to help fulfill its goal of becoming the healthcare choice for our community. You can help create patient-centered care by sharing your insight and voice. Become a pFAC member and share your unique experience. You can help TGH make a difference in the lives of other patients and families. If you are selected to become a member, you will be asked to serve a maximum three-year term. There is no educational background or experience required.

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