Introduction

Located on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, UW Health’s American Family Children’s Hospital is a world-class pediatric medical and surgical center. Named a Best Children’s Hospital in multiple specialties by U.S. News & World Report for the past six years, this modern, yet intimate and comforting facility offers patients and families access to cutting-edge treatments in a soothing environment optimal for healing.

American Family Children’s Hospital traces its origins back nearly a century ago, when the Mary Cornelia Bradley Hospital for the Study of Children’s Diseases opened in 1920 on the UW campus as the first children’s hospital in Madison. After several moves and expansions, today’s American Family Children’s Hospital, which is connected to University Hospital, began operations in 2007.

American Family Children’s Hospital is a regional referral center, attracting the sickest and most seriously injured infants, children and adolescents who need care from expert pediatricians and pediatric surgeons who also serve as faculty members at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. Our patients come primarily from Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, although we have cared for patients from 49 of the 50 states. In addition, we have a strong local primary care network and child health advocacy program that is essential in maintaining and promoting good health and well-being for kids of all ages.

Facts and Figures

The following information is based on fiscal year 2016 data:

- Ranked for six consecutive years as a Best Children’s Hospital in multiple pediatric specialties by U.S. News & World Report
- Number of beds: 87 (will expand to 111 beds by late 2017)
- Discharges: 3,838
- Number of surgical procedures: 5,864
- Number of pediatric operating rooms: 8
- Emergency Room visits: 11,514
- Clinic visits: 149,797 (includes primary and specialty clinic visits)
- Average length of stay: 5.2 days
- Case Mix Index: 1.72 (indicates that we take care of very sick patients)
- Number of pediatric specialists and surgeons caring for kids: 294
Where Our Patients Come From

Our patients come from across the nation, but most come from Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. The greatest concentration of children come from the most darkly shaded areas of the map.

What Kind of Care Our Patients Receive

This chart shows the type of care children received at American Family Children’s Hospital between fiscal years 2010 and 2016. Approximately 51 percent are medical admissions while 49 percent are surgical admissions.
A Kaleidoscope of Pediatric Specialty and Surgical Care

Our world-class team of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals focuses on everything from routine and preventive health care to highly specialized medical fields. Some of the services that make us unique include:

- The combined expertise of nearly 300 pediatric physicians and surgeons who are faculty members of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.
- A Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant program that is part of the UW Carbone Cancer Center—the only Comprehensive Cancer Center in Wisconsin designated by the National Cancer Institute. We offer the latest treatments and research protocols for childhood leukemia, brain tumors, neuroblastoma, and other childhood cancers.
- A Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where we care for the very sickest babies in the region.
- A comprehensive Congenital Heart Program offering diagnostic, medical, interventional and surgical care of heart disease in children of all ages.
- A comprehensive Pediatric Diabetes Center for children with access to the best and latest treatments.
- A Pediatric Pulmonary Center that is one of nine recognized nationally for excellence in patient care and education; children with cystic fibrosis, asthma, chronic lung disease and other concerns are treated here.
- A Pediatric Nephrology team featuring internationally recognized experts in renal transplantation and novel prednisone-free immunosuppression.
- A Pediatric Infectious Disease team with extraordinary expertise in common childhood infections, global health issues and management of infection in immunocompromised patients.
- An Allergy, Immunology & Rheumatology Division that is known throughout the world for its study and treatment of asthma and immunodeficiencies.
- A nationally accredited Pediatric Cleft and Craniofacial Anomalies Program.
- A renowned childhood Sedation Program.

UW Pediatric Medical Specialties

The Department of Pediatrics of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health and the American Family Children’s Hospital provide an extensive range of services to children of all ages. In addition to a broad array of subspecialty services, the division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine provides comprehensive primary care in nine community-based locations.

The scope of these clinical services, combined with basic research done in a number of different areas, results in dynamic relationships that foster stronger research and patient care services. Because many of our faculty are both clinical practitioners and researchers, delivery of care takes medical advances from the research environment and puts them into practice.

Our specialty divisions within the Department of Pediatrics Include:

- Allergy, Immunology & Rheumatology
- Cardiology
- Child Protection
- Critical Care
- Emergency Medicine
- Endocrinology & Diabetes
- Gastroenterology & Nutrition
- General Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine
- Genetics & Metabolism
- Hematology, Oncology & Bone Marrow Transplant
- Hospitalists
- Infectious Diseases
- Neonatology & Newborn Nursery
- Nephrology
- Neurodevelopmental-Behavioral Pediatrics
- Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine

Many pediatric services are also provided by UW faculty physicians from the Departments of Anesthesiology, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Ophthalmology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Orthopedics and Rehab Medicine, Psychiatry, Radiology, Surgery and Urology.
UW Pediatric Surgical Specialties

More than 50 pediatric surgeons and anesthesiologists conduct more than 5,800 surgical procedures each year at American Family Children’s Hospital. We offer the following pediatric surgical specialties:

- Cardiothoracic
- Ear, Nose and Throat (Otolaryngology)
- General Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
- Plastic and Reconstructive (including craniofacial anomalies)
- Surgical Oncology
- Transplant
- Trauma
- Urology

Surgical Services for Patients and Families

American Family Children’s Hospital offers many advantages for families whose child requires a surgical procedure. Highlights include:

**Pre-Op/Post-Op Unit:** Upon arrival to Surgical Services, the patient and family are welcomed to a room in this unit that serves as the family’s “home base” before, during and after surgery.

**Parent May Accompany Child to Operating Room:** In most cases, American Family Children’s Hospital invites one parent to be with the child in the operating room until the child is asleep. Parents are extremely appreciative of this opportunity, knowing that they are the last person their child sees before anesthesia is given and the first person their child sees when the child awakens after surgery.

**Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU):** After surgery, the child is brought to this area, where a nurse will be at the bedside to ensure the child’s safety and comfort. Parents can also visit with their child at this time. If the child needs to stay overnight, he or she will be moved to an inpatient room. Children going home the same day will be moved to the Post-Op Unit to recover.

Inpatient Discharges and Surgical Cases

Inpatient discharges and surgical cases have been trending upward over the last several years at American Family Children’s Hospital.

![Inpatient Discharges](chart)

![Surgical Cases](chart)
Caring for Patients Close to Home

With 28 pediatric outreach locations across Wisconsin and in Rockford, Illinois, UW Health medical and surgical specialists make it easy for families to get the expert care their children need without traveling to Madison. Substantially bolstering this regional presence, American Family Children’s Hospital in 2015 launched a new partnership with Milwaukee-based Aurora Health Care to provide pediatric specialty services to patients at Aurora clinics located throughout southeastern Wisconsin and the Fox Valley. UW Health pediatric specialty providers conducted more than 3,600 patient visits at the 28 outreach sites in FY 2016.

Critical Care by Air and Ground

When an acutely ill or injured child needs specialized care immediately, American Family Children’s Hospital’s Critical Care Transport Team is just a phone call away. With a simple call to the UW Hospital and Clinics Access Center, a child can be safely transported from another hospital or clinic to Madison by air or ground while receiving expert care along the way. Our UW Med Flight (air) and CHETA (ground) transport include specialized equipment to monitor and stabilize a child while traveling to Madison. Since 2012, we have transported more than 530 patients by air and more than 1,850 by ground to American Family Children’s Hospital. CHETA, our ground transport service, also picks up neonatal infants from across the region who require intensive care either at American Family Children’s Hospital (Level 4 NICU) or UnityPoint Health - Meriter (Level 3 NICU) in Madison.
A Comprehensive Pediatric Heart Program

American Family Children’s Hospital features an experienced team that offers outstanding diagnostic, interventional and surgical services for children. Our commitment to be the best applies not only to outcomes, but to service, reliability and patient/family satisfaction. Families from across the state especially appreciate the convenience of our expert pediatric cardiology outreach clinics at multiple regional locations across Wisconsin.

Our pediatric heart program has grown substantially over the past few years, featuring well-known experts in pediatric cardiothoracic surgery (Petros Anagnostopoulous, MD, who has performed more than 550 open heart surgeries since his arrival in 2011), pediatric interventional cardiology (Luke Lamers, MD), pediatric electrophysiology (Nicholas Von Bergen, MD), pediatric preventive cardiology (Amy Peterson, MD) and adult congenital heart disease (Heather Bartlett, MD). The fetal cardiology service led by Shardha Srinivasan, MD, provides expert prenatal diagnoses and consultation to families and providers throughout the region.

Our pediatric heart surgery case outcomes outperform the national average and most of our patients spend less time in the hospital following surgery, according to recent data from the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. Our program also ranks in the 97th percentile for overall patient satisfaction in comparison to 111 national facilities, according to Press Ganey, a health care patient satisfaction measurement firm.

A Groundbreaking Pediatric Cancer Program

The monumental increase in the cure rate for childhood cancer – from approximately 30 percent in 1980 to 84 percent today – would not have transpired without a strong commitment to basic and clinical research. Several pediatric cancer treatments leading to higher survival – especially for leukemia patients and increasingly for those with neuroblastoma – are direct outgrowths of UW-Madison research protocols under the leadership of Paul Sondel, MD, PhD, Ken DeSantes, MD and other members of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant.

In 2013 several members from Sondel’s division were named to North America’s only pediatric cancer “Dream Team”* that consists of seven institutions seeking to advance the study of immunotherapy to accelerate development of novel cancer therapies with fewer side effects than current treatments. By turning the body’s own immune system against cancer cells, immunotherapy shows great promise of enhancing both short-term and long-term quality of life for children with cancer.

*selected by the American Association of Cancer Research, Stand Up To Cancer, and the St. Baldrick’s Foundation.
Demand Growth Fuels Nearly Doubling of Bed Capacity in 10 Years

“If you build it, they will come,” has proven to be a very accurate statement about American Family Children’s Hospital. Growing demand has warranted several internal expansions into shelled space since the hospital opened in 2007. By late 2017, American Family Children’s Hospital will have nearly doubled its capacity (from 61 to 111 beds). Moreover, our nearly 300 UW faculty physicians who care for children is double the number of pediatric specialists and surgeons on staff when the hospital opened 10 years ago.

Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

In 2014, American Family Children’s Hospital opened a 14-bed Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) offering the highest level of medical and surgical care for the sickest babies whose very survival is at stake – all in a family-centered environment. Rather than competing with NICUs in community hospitals, our NICU serves as a referral center in cases when a baby’s life may hinge on receiving the most sophisticated level of care possible. We have cared for more than 300 babies since the opening of the NICU, and occupancy levels warrant expansion of the NICU from 14 to 26 beds by late 2017 (see expansion paragraph below).

Pediatric Imaging Pavilion

American Family Children’s Hospital opened a beautiful new Pediatric Imaging Pavilion in 2014 to provide a central, child-friendly environment where procedures such as MRI, ultrasound and fluoroscopy are performed with lower-dose radiation than used in most hospitals. Our new Imaging Pavilion also features a pediatric catheterization/angiography lab where catheterizations, angioplasties, radiological and neurointerventional procedures are performed. American Family Children’s Hospital was the first in the world to offer these procedures using new cutting edge X-ray imaging equipment. This means our patients and staff are exposed to 60 to 80 percent less radiation than would be the case in conventional catheterization or radiology labs.

Coming in 2017: Expansion of NICU and Universal Care Unit

In 2014, American Family Children’s Hospital opened two new units, a 14-bed Level IV NICU and a 12-bed Universal Care Unit where we care for children with diabetes, epilepsy, complex orthopedic conditions, pulmonary illness, acute and chronic kidney failure, muscle and neurologic issues, and children who are tracheostomy- and ventilator-dependent.

Thanks to current and projected growth, both of these units, currently on the 8th floor, will expand in 2017. Our NICU will grow from 14 to 26 beds and occupy the entire 8th floor, while the Universal Care Unit will grow from 12 to 24 beds and occupy the entire 7th floor (now vacant). Part of this expansion will include a new Epilepsy Monitoring Unit featuring wireless monitoring that will give children more freedom to be up and around.

Leading-edge Medical, Surgical and Interventional Care

American Family Children’s Hospital’s ability to care for acutely ill children has escalated significantly over the past several years.

“We are incredibly proud of the caliber of faculty we have recruited to Madison, and the American Family Children’s Hospital,” says Ellen Wald, MD, chair of the Department of Pediatrics in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. “As impactful as American Family Children’s Hospital’s arrival has been for the community and the state, we are continuing to grow in depth and breadth. There is a tremendous sense of excitement as we continue to attract exceptional faculty physicians and surgeons while expanding our children’s hospital to accommodate the increasingly complex needs of our patients.”
American Family Children’s Hospital’s partnership with the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health goes back nearly a century. Since the opening of the first children's hospital on the UW-Madison campus in 1920, faculty physicians from the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Surgery have played an instrumental role in developing more effective treatments for sick children across the nation and beyond.

In fiscal year 2016, the UW Department of Pediatrics attracted $24.8 million in extramural grants for research in subspecialties from allergy to genetics. Based on the amount of pediatrics research support it received from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), UW ranked #18 in the nation for fiscal year 2015.

**Waisman Center**

Located directly across the street from American Family Children’s Hospital, the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about human development, developmental disabilities, and neurodegenerative diseases. One of only 14 centers of its kind in the United States, the Waisman Center encompasses laboratories for biomedical and behavioral research, a brain imaging center, and a clinical biomanufacturing facility for the production of pharmaceuticals for early stage human clinical trials. In addition to its research efforts, the Waisman Center provides highly-specialized clinical care and support to children and families affected by a broad range of developmental disabilities that include autism, down syndrome, cerebral palsy, and genetic disorders through 11 specialty clinics, with autism treatment service programs added this year.

The Center also has an integrated preschool, statewide capacity-building initiatives to improve the quality of life of individuals with disabilities and their families and trains scientists and clinicians who will serve our nation in the future.