A PROFILE OF
American Family
Children’s Hospital
at University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
2015
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 five 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 95 years ago, when the Mary Cornelia Bradley Hospital for the Study of Children’s Diseases opened 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 UW Hospital and Clinics, 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 2015 data:

- Number of beds: 87 (future capacity of 139 beds)
- Discharges: 4,205
- Number of surgical procedures: 5,789
- Number of pediatric operating rooms: 8
- Emergency Room visits: 11,662
- Total number of specialty clinics: 38
- Clinic visits: 144,879 (includes primary and specialty clinic visits)
- Average length of stay: 5.1 days
- Case Mix Index: 1.6 (This figure indicates that we take care of very sick patients)
- A leader in low-dose radiation imaging technology and protocols
- Child Life programming to help “kids be kids”
- A pediatric anesthesiology program that invites parents to accompany their son or daughter in the operating room until the child is asleep
- A Positive Image Center, allowing children to ease anxiety resulting from appearance-altering illnesses
- An in-hospital school staffed by three Madison Metropolitan School District teachers
- A sibling childcare program
- A pet therapy program

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 235 pediatric physicians and surgeons who are faculty members of the UW 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 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 Pediatric 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

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.
The Department of Pediatrics of the UW School of Medicine & 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 nearly 5,800 surgical procedures each year at American Family Children’s Hospital. We offer the following pediatric surgical specialties:

- Cardiothoracic
- Ear, Nose and Throat
- General Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Plastic and Reconstructive
- Surgical Oncology
- Transplant
- Urology

Inpatient Discharges and Surgical Procedures

Inpatient discharges and surgical procedures have been growing over the last several years at American Family Children’s Hospital. The slight decrease between 2012 and 2013 is primarily due to insurance coverage changes implemented by Physicians Plus Insurance Corp.

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. If the child is going home the same day, he/she will be moved to the Post-Op Unit to recover.
Caring for Patients Close to Home

With 17 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. In 2015, American Family Children’s Hospital 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.

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. Over the last three-year period (2012 to 2014), nearly 1,000 transports to American Family Children’s Hospital were conducted from 90 locations.
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 seven regional locations.

With the recruitment of a director of pediatric cardiothoracic surgery in 2011 (Petros Anagnostopoulos, MD) and a director of pediatric interventional cardiology in 2012 (Luke Lamers, MD), American Family Children’s Hospital admits neonates, infants and children with congenital heart defects of every level of complexity. In the four years since Dr. Anagnostopoulos’ arrival, he has performed more than 350 open heart surgeries on children of all ages.

Major Hospital Expansion in 2014

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. Since the opening of the NICU, more than 150 babies have been cared for – all without a single central-line associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI), catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) or ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP).

American Family Children’s Hospital also 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 adult hospitals. Our new Imaging Pavilion also features a pediatric catheterization/angiography lab where catheterizations, angioplasties, radiological and neurointerventional procedures, and emergent surgeries are performed. American Family Children’s Hospital was the first in the world to offer these procedures using the Siemens Artis Q.zen equipment. This means our patients and staff are exposed to 60 percent less radiation than would be the case in conventional catheterization or radiology labs.

The third piece of the 2014 expansion is a 12-bed Universal Care Unit. Patients admitted to this unit typically include those with diabetes, epilepsy, complex orthopedic conditions, acute and chronic kidney failure, muscle and neurologic issues, and children who are tracheostomy- and ventilator-dependent. To help reduce our patients’ length of stay, the Universal Care Unit places a special emphasis on preparing families for the transition from the hospital to home after discharge.

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.”
Faculty Physicians from the UW – a World-class Research University

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.

For example, the monumental increase in the cure rate for childhood cancer – from approximately 30 percent in 1980 to more than 80 percent today – would not have transpired without a 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 research protocols led by Paul Sondel, MD, PhD 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.

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 13 specialty clinics.

The Center also provides an array of services to people with developmental disabilities, offers numerous early intervention, educational, and outreach programs to young children and their families, and trains scientists and clinicians who will serve our nation in the future.