About the Transplant Center

Seattle Children’s Transplant Center provides comprehensive evaluation and care to children who have end-stage diseases and may need a transplant of the heart, liver, kidneys or intestine. A transplant is often the only treatment if your child has a chronic disease that will lead to organ failure.

Why Choose Seattle Children’s?

At Seattle Children’s, your child will be cared for by doctors who are international leaders in improving pediatric organ transplantation. They are transplant specialists. Our doctors also lead research to find better ways of caring for children before, during and after they get a new organ.

As one of the busiest transplant centers in the nation, our doctors have extensive experience transplanting organs. We care for some of the sickest patients, including children who might be turned down at other centers.

Seattle Children’s provides specialty care for a greater area than many other children’s hospitals: Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Montana, Idaho and Hawaii.

The prospect of an organ transplant can be frightening and feel overwhelming. We are here to help your entire family through this process. Our team includes surgeons, doctors, nurses, pain specialists, dietitians, social workers, child life specialists and transplant specialists.

- Our heart transplant doctors treat the region’s most complex cases. Yet Seattle Children’s has one of the highest 3-year patient survival rates and one of the best waitlist mortality rates in the country.
- We are the region’s only provider of liver transplants for children. Our doctors are among the most experienced pediatric liver transplant surgeons in the United States. Their skill is reflected in our 100% patient survival rate.
- We are the second busiest pediatric kidney transplant center in the United States. Our survival rate is 100%, both for our pediatric patients and their transplanted kidneys.
- Our doctors pioneered intestinal transplants. We are leaders in improving care for children with intestinal failure, with the aim of reducing the need for transplantation. Our team is also skilled at multiple organ transplants, such as intestine–liver.

Best outcomes

The results (outcomes) of our transplant programs are among the best in the nation – as measured by patient and organ (graft) survival.

We also work hard to improve our patients’ quality of life after transplant. We are committed to helping your entire family return to a normal, active life.

Treating the whole family

We treat every patient and family member with care, compassion and respect.

We will help your entire family understand the transplant process and learn new coping skills during this very challenging time. Our transplant specialists are here to help you with insurance matters and financial counseling.

When your child is ready to go home, we provide after-transplant care plans that are practical and straightforward to
help you care for your child.

All along the way, you and your child will work with the same team of skilled transplant specialists.

**Finest care before, during and after transplant**

We continually explore ways to keep children healthier while they are waiting for transplant. Examples are better nutrition, avoiding infection and using extracorporeal life support (ECLS) for children while they wait for, receive and heal from a heart transplant.

After transplant, antirejection medicine is key to keeping a new organ healthy. We fine-tune treatment so a child does not reject their new organ and keeps a strong enough immune system to fight infection and disease.

We’ll involve your child or teen in their care in age-appropriate ways. To help teens take their medicine, we are testing a high-tech pill box that can send text messages. Our child life specialists help our patients and families understand medical procedures and develop skills to cope with their illness and hospital stay.

**Research to Advance Transplants for Children**

We share our expertise through our leadership in international groups. Even the busiest transplant centers take care of relatively few patients each year. Sharing information with pediatric transplant centers around the world helps us know more quickly what works – and what does not.

Our patients get access to new treatment options because we take part in multicenter studies. Learn more about our transplant advances and research.

**Making Transplants Available to More Children**

Our doctors offer innovative treatments that make transplants available to more children. This approach also helps shorten wait times for children who need transplants.

Newer techniques include transplanting organs from nonmatched donors (ABO-incompatible transplants) and from living donors (kidney and partial liver). We also modify adult organs to fit children who need them, using split- and reduced-liver transplants.

Our physicians hold leadership positions with the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) committees and serve on the Organ Procurement Organization.

Learn more about heart, intestine, kidney and liver organ donation.