



**Fight childhood
cancer right **here.****



**Manning Family
Children's** LCMC Health



A note from our leader

Dear colleagues,

It has been an exciting several years for the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Manning Family Children's. In this booklet, you'll read more about the unprecedented growth our center and our team have experienced in recent years, and the extraordinary care our doctors and nurses provide for children facing cancers and blood disorders.

As Service Line Chief for the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, I am proud and honored to lead Louisiana's largest team of specialists dedicated to pediatric cancer and blood disorders, and look forward to continued growth, particularly in our offerings for Cellular and Gene Therapies to treat cancer and sickle cell disease.

In September of 2023, we welcomed pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist, Dr. Benjamin Watkins, to serve as director of the hospital's Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapy Program. Manning Family Children's is the only accredited Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant facility in the state of Louisiana, and with the addition of Dr. Watkins to our already robust team, we look forward to caring for children with the newest and most innovative therapies available anywhere.

Earlier this year, Children's became the only hospital in Louisiana, and among a select group nationally, to serve as an activated treatment center for newly-approved sickle cell gene therapies. With these cutting-edge treatments, we can provide life-changing and lifesaving care for those who need it most.

In recent years, we have also expanded and improved our facilities. Our comprehensive center provides a dedicated healing environment for children and their families. With more than 10,000 square feet of dedicated care space, including a spacious new infusion center and outpatient clinic that are adjacent to our newly expanded 24-bed inpatient unit, our Center is an environment expertly designed for kids and families receiving specialized care for childhood cancers and blood disorders.

While we are incredibly proud of our 30+ year foundation and the advances we have made in recent years, we're equally as excited for the growth still to come for our program. In the pages that follow, please read about our program, team, services, and what's next for the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Manning Family Children's.

Sincerely,

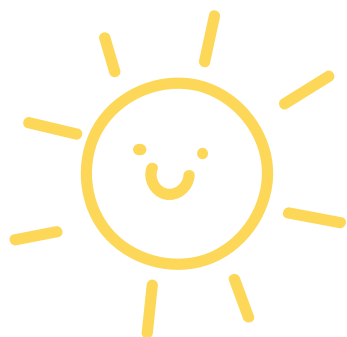
Charles Hemenway, MD

Service Line Chief

The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Manning Family Children's



The best cancer-fighting
team just for kids. **Right here.**



About us

The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Manning Family Children's provides comprehensive care with a multidisciplinary team approach. The hospital has dedicated areas for inpatient and outpatient care, providing treatment for children with cancer, sickle cell disease, hemophilia and other blood disorders.

What sets us apart?

Clinical Trials

The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders treats more than 1,100 children each year, which is more children with cancer and blood disorders than all other facilities in Louisiana combined. Though patient care is our primary focus, Manning Family Children's is also an active participant in clinical research of childhood cancers and blood disorders. Our physicians, which comprise the largest group of pediatric hematology oncology specialists in the Gulf South, have access to the most modern therapies for treatment of malignancies and blood disorders in children through these clinical trials.

Manning Family Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders is the only FACT-accredited pediatric facility in the state, performing stem cell transplants and actively conducting cancer research on therapies at the forefront of medicine. The center also has the largest, most experienced group of pediatric cancer specialists in the region, staffed by faculty from LSU Health New Orleans and Tulane School of Medicine.

Because most patients require multidisciplinary care, pediatric surgery, orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, pathology, radiation oncology, diagnostic radiology and laboratory services are available along with a full offering of pediatric sub-specialty and support services.

Children's Oncology Group

Through our membership in the Children's Oncology Group (COG), we can offer patients from infancy to adolescence and young adulthood the most up-to-date clinical trials in our field as we continually strive to improve long-term outcomes for these patients. Such participation in clinical research efforts allows us to provide patients and families with access to expert, state-of-the-art care and clinical trials, right here at home.



Our Team

The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Manning Family Children's comprises the largest group of hematology oncology physicians and nurses in the Gulf South. Our team is specially trained to care for the unique needs of children and work alongside a medical staff of more than 200 pediatric specialists, including pathologists, radiologists, oncology surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, and neurosurgeons. Our pediatric experts understand that caring for children with malignancies and blood disorders demands a delicate balance of medical care and emotional support. Support for patients and their families is provided by child psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers.

Other members of the multidisciplinary team include hematology, oncology, hematopoietic stem cell transplant nurse navigators, pharmacists, dietitians, laboratory technologists, physical, occupational and speech and hearing therapists, and music, recreation, and child life therapists.

Forging the future of pediatric hematology oncology

Manning Family Children's is a teaching facility for medical students, nursing students and those completing graduate and postgraduate training. The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders is home to LSU Health New Orleans' pediatric hematology oncology fellowship program, which is the only approved, dedicated hematology oncology fellowship training program in Louisiana.



Oncology

Treatment programs

Leukemia and Lymphomas

Our Leukemia and Lymphoma program provides comprehensive care to patients from infancy to young adulthood. This includes diagnosis and management of acute lymphocytic leukemia, acute myelogenous leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, other leukemia subtypes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), and lymphoproliferative disorders.

Our multidisciplinary team offers chemotherapy, radiation, stem cell transplantation, and immunotherapy. We continue to serve as the only pediatric oncology center in Louisiana that offers CAR T-Cell treatment. Additionally, the oncology team is part of the hospital's Thyroid Clinic, which cares for patients with thyroid cancer. There is coordination of care between our oncologists, advanced practitioners, and several other specialties including radiation oncology, surgery, pathology, radiology, and clinical research trials. With efforts to prioritize compassionate "total care" for the child and family, they are supported by a team of psychologists, social workers, child life specialists, music therapists, dieticians, and integrative medicine specialists with healing touch.



Leading the way in innovative treatments

Innovative research trials are offered as our program is a member of the Children's Oncology Group, a National Cancer Institute-supported clinical trials cooperative group devoted exclusively to childhood and adolescent cancer research. Several of our oncologists hold key leadership roles in the organization.

Comprehensive treatment plans are individualized considering all aspects of a child's care. Our team is also integrally involved in community outreach and cancer awareness with organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Solid Tumor Program

The Pediatric Solid Tumor Program at Manning Family Children's provides comprehensive care for children and young adults who have been diagnosed with bone or soft tissue cancers. Some of the cancers we treat include neuroblastoma, osteosarcoma, Ewing sarcoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, hepatoblastoma, hepatocellular carcinoma, Wilms tumor, germ cell tumor, and many others.

Patients with solid tumors often require a combination of chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery for treatment. Our team of LSU Health and Tulane Medicine pediatric oncologists and advanced practice providers works closely with Manning Family Children's team of pediatric surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, radiation oncologists, pathologists, radiologists, and a robust group of supportive care services to treat our patients in a collaborative, multidisciplinary setting. Supportive care services include rehabilitation services, psychology, psychiatry, child life specialists, and social workers. Additionally, our Solid Tumor Committee meets twice per month for multidisciplinary case review and care coordination.

Survivorship Program

The Treatment After Cancer and Late Effects (TACLE) Clinic is the only Survivorship Clinic dedicated to taking care of pediatric cancer survivors in the Gulf South. Patients are eligible to be seen in the TACLE Clinic if they are at least two years from completion of therapy for cancer or five years from diagnosis. Families can self-refer if they were not treated at Children's. Three out of five who survive pediatric cancer suffer late-developing side effects because of their disease, its treatment, or both, which may include long-term medical, psychosocial and/or neurocognitive problems.

Adolescent and Young Adults with Cancer Program

Our Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer (AYA) Program team has the expertise of pediatric oncologists, medicine-pediatric trained physicians, adult oncologists, fertility preservation experts, surgeons, radiation oncologists, psychologists, social workers, and clinical trials coordinators. Most of our treatment protocols come from the Children's Oncology Group (COG), and we are also members of Alliance Clinical Trials and ECOG-ACRIN. The AYA team participates in a multi-disciplinary tumor board with states across the Gulf South and Texas. Additionally, while in the hospital, our adolescents and young adults have access to the Teen Room; a space that provides teens and young adults a place to read, play video games, and have computer access.



We recognize that adolescents and young adults with cancer have unique needs and face challenges not encountered by other groups. It is our goal to ensure that our patients between the ages of 15 and 22 receive the best available individualized care, by providing state-of-the-art treatment options with a comprehensive team approach that addresses the physical, psychological, social, and emotional needs of adolescents and young adults along the journey from diagnosis and treatment, to remission and survivorship.

Palliative Care (The Pelican Krewe)

Manning Family Children's pediatric palliative care team, the Pelican Krewe, specializes in family-centered care of the body, mind, and spirit of children with complex medical conditions. The multidisciplinary care team coordinates care and helps patients and families gain strength to carry on with daily life, affirming, guiding, and supporting them while making the best possible decisions for their family. The Pelican Krewe supports patients and families by helping them understand treatment goals and options during the child's journey. Children's Pelican Krewe is the only pediatric palliative care program in Louisiana.



Hematology

The hematology service at Manning Family Children's treats a wide variety of hematologic disorders including sickle cell disease and other anemias, neutropenias, platelet, and bleeding disorders. Our hematology service follows the largest group of patients with sickle cell disease in Louisiana, and more children with blood disorders come to Children's for treatment than to any other hospital in the state. Patients receive the highest level of care from a staff experienced in the latest treatments for a full spectrum of disorders.

Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC) and Hemophilia, Bleeding Disorders, and Thrombosis Program

Manning Family Children's is the only free-standing children's hospital in Louisiana and southern Mississippi with a federally recognized Hemophilia Treatment Center (HTC). The Hemophilia, Bleeding Disorders, and Thrombosis Program provides comprehensive, multispecialty care to children, adolescents, and young adults with all types of bleeding and clotting disorders. The HTC is affiliated with the American Thrombosis and Hemostasis Network (ATHN) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and actively participates in several industry-sponsored trials through our Clinical Trials Center with the goal of bringing the most advanced and up-to-date treatments to our patients.

Our HTC and the Hemophilia, Bleeding Disorders and Thrombosis team is committed to offering accurate and prompt diagnosis and optimal management and treatment of bleeding and thrombotic disorders and their potential complications. Hemophilia, as well as other bleeding and thrombotic disorders are serious, chronic, life-long diseases requiring more than just medical management. Bleeding can happen at any time, disrupting education and other school activities, causing prolonged periods of pain and potential disability, and affecting quality of life. Our HTC has a strong commitment to a family-centered care model.

In our Multidisciplinary Outpatient Clinic, patients with Hemophilia A and B with and without inhibitors, Von Willebrand's Disease, clotting disorders, and platelet and other bleeding disorders are evaluated and treated with the most current therapies in an environment that places comfort and care first. Education of our patients and their families about their diagnosis is a priority for our team of experts. Learning about their disease improves knowledge and helps them develop the skills needed to cope with their disorder and to live active and fulfilling lives. We closely collaborate with the Louisiana Hemophilia Foundation (LHF) and the National Hemophilia Foundation (NHF).







Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Program

The Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Program at Manning Family Children's is responsible for the care of more than 300 patients with sickle cell disease (SCD) and other hemoglobinopathies. The Children's Hospital hematology team provides the most advanced, comprehensive care to children with SCD and other hemoglobinopathies in Louisiana and the Gulf South. Care is provided by nationally recognized hematologists who are active members and leaders of the Louisiana Commission on SCD, The American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology's Hemoglobinopathy Section, Foundation for SCD Research, and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of Southern Louisiana.

Manning Family Children's sickle cell program offers state-of-the-art facilities and resources known to be essential to the care of patients with sickle cell disease, including transcranial doppler technology, magnetic resonance imaging/angiography (MRI/A), echocardiography, erythrocytapheresis, pain management, immunizations, genetic testing, and blood banking with precision typing.

Manning Family Children's is proud to be among the first hospitals in the country authorized to administer two new transformative treatments, Lygenia and Casgevy, for sickle cell disease in patients 12 and up. In both treatments, the patient's stem cells are removed and modified, then returned to the body. Manning Family Children's is at the forefront of groundbreaking therapies for those battling sickle cell disease as one of a select few hospitals in the country offering these therapies. Additionally, the Tulane Sickle Cell Center of Southern Louisiana is the only transition clinic for patients with sickle cell disease in the state and has been treating adolescents and young adults for the past 40 years and helping transition them to adult care.



GABS Clinic

The Girls and Adolescents with Blood and Sickle Cell Disease (GABS) Clinic was created to offer the prompt diagnosis and treatment options for girls and adolescents with blood disorders including bleeding disorders, Von Willebrand's Disease, iron deficiency anemia associated with heavy menstrual periods, clotting disorders, and sickle cell disease.

Our team of experts includes Pediatric Hematologists, Adolescent Medicine, Genetic Counseling, Nurse Navigators/Educators, and Social Services. In close collaboration with the LSU Department of Gynecology, complex gynecological findings are promptly evaluated and treated accordingly. Through our affiliation with the Foundation for Women and Girls with Blood Disorders (FWGBD), we actively advocate for our girls and adolescents with specific reproductive health concerns related to their complicated blood disorders.



Stem Cell Transplant, Cellular, and Gene Therapies Program

Stem Cell Transplant, Cellular, and Gene Therapies Program

Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) is often the best and sometimes only chance for cure for patients with certain cancers or blood disorders. The process involves replacing someone's defective blood stem cells with new healthy stem cells. HSCT is often called a bone marrow transplant because the blood stem cells live within the bone marrow. The stem cells can be collected from the blood or bone marrow from a patient's own body (autologous) or from someone else (allogeneic). Prior to receiving the new cells, a patient must go through chemotherapy and/or radiation to eliminate their defective stem cells. Receiving the stem



cells does not require surgery as the new cells are administered through an IV similar to a blood transfusion. The process takes weeks to months and involves close care from a highly specialized, experienced multidisciplinary team.

What is cellular therapy?

Cellular therapy is a process of training the immune system to attack specific cells, including cancer cells. Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell therapy (CAR T) is the most common cellular therapy and has revolutionized the management of some aggressive forms of leukemia and lymphoma. Many cellular therapies use the patient's own cells, however some require a donor. After collecting and training the cells, they are given back to the patient through an IV where they begin seeking out and killing the unwanted cells.

What is gene therapy?

Gene therapy is an approach to prevent or treat diseases by correcting the genetic mutations responsible for the diseases. The number of diseases that are currently able to be treated with gene therapy is growing rapidly and includes immunodeficiencies, sickle cell disease, thalassemia, and others. The process involves collecting a patient's own stem cells and then changing the genes to turn them off, replacing them with a normal healthy gene, or introducing new genes depending on the disease. These cells are then given back to patient through an IV, after which the modified stem cells grow and produce mature blood cells with the desired genetic "correction."

CAR-T Cell Therapy

Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell therapy (CAR T-cell Therapy) was first approved to treat certain types of leukemia and lymphoma in 2017, and Manning Family Children's is the only pediatric hospital in the state that is able to offer this treatment. The beauty of CAR T-cell therapy is that it uses immune cells that come directly from the patient's own blood and are "engineered" to recognize cancer cells. This allows for the body's own immune system to find and destroy the cancer cells.



In 2021, Children's Hospital became the first and only hospital in the state of Louisiana to be approved by Novartis, the pharmaceutical corporation that manufactures the CAR T-cells, called Kymriah, or tisagenlecleucel. Kymriah is one of six approved types of CAR T-cells and is used primarily to fight B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common type of cancer in children, and diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL), another cancer that can affect children. One of the many positive aspects of using CAR T-cells is that the side effects are much less severe compared to those that accompany chemotherapy because the treatment involves the patient's own cells. CAR T-cells have been shown to cure otherwise incurable cancers in patients through previous clinical trials.

Sickle Cell Gene Therapy

Manning Family Children's is proud to be the only hospital in Louisiana to serve as an authorized treatment center for both Lyfgenia (BlueBird Bio) and Casgevy (Vertex), two gene therapies recently approved by the FDA to treat sickle cell disease in patients 12 years and older.

This ground-breaking gene therapy is now available for patients with sickle cell disease, an inherited blood disorder affecting about 120,000 children and adults in the United States.

Approximately 100 patients in the world have received this ground-breaking therapy, and Manning Family Children's is currently the only hospital in Louisiana with this distinction for pediatrics and adults approved for Casgevy. Children's is also now one of the only hospitals in the Southeast and the only hospital in Louisiana to be an authorized center for Zynteglo (Bluebird Bio), an FDA-approved gene therapy for the treatment of beta-thalassemia.

Clinical Trials

In addition to groundbreaking cancer treatments, the Manning Family Children's clinical trials team also supports studies primarily focused on pain management, decreasing visits to the hospital, and even improving outcomes by helping kids undergoing cancer treatment to express their emotions.

These studies only scratch the surface of what the trials team does. The common thread throughout this work is that it is done with an intense desire to advance medicine through therapeutic clinical trial protocols thereby improving outcomes for many children who are sick with serious illnesses. In 2023, Children's enrolled patients on 91 Hematology Oncology clinical trials.



Our facilities

Inpatient Hematology Oncology Services

Known in the hospital as 4 West, the inpatient unit boasts 23 private rooms with a child-friendly environment. Each room is equipped with high efficiency particle air (HEPA) filtration. The highly advanced air handling system allows hematopoietic stem cell transplants to be performed in any room and is essential to reducing the risk of infection. Located away from other inpatient areas and accessed through a positive pressure vestibule, the unit allows for the highest level of protection for patients.



The unit, overlooking Audubon Zoo, also includes a playroom stocked with games, toys, art supplies and computers, and an activity center, where music and recreation therapists can interact with small groups of children for organized play. A parent's lounge is available for those needing moments of rest or respite.

When admission is indicated, pediatric hematologists, nurses, and other members of the multidisciplinary team devise an individual treatment plan for each patient. Patients and their families develop a special bond with the staff on the fourth floor, and the staff is committed to helping them cope both emotionally and physically with the side effects and complications associated with the disease and treatments.

Outpatient Clinic and Infusion Center

The new Hematology Oncology Outpatient Clinic and Infusion Center, which opened in May 2021, is adjacent to the inpatient hematology oncology unit. The all-new space comprises 10,880 square feet and features 16 spacious exam rooms dedicated to hematology oncology services.

Connected to the clinic, an all-new infusion center houses nine open infusion bays along with two private infusion rooms for those children who are severely immunocompromised or require isolation. The Infusion Center is designed to provide accessible and convenient outpatient care for patients receiving chemotherapy, transfusions and infusions.

The Infusion Center provides quiet, comfortable treatment areas that allow our patients to be monitored closely by a registered nurse. Televisions, wi-fi, coloring books and other games are available for patients, in addition to support from our Child Life Specialists. Recliner chairs are used to improve the comfort of the patients during their time spent receiving treatment, along with a comfortable space for their family members.





On the horizon

To meet the growing need for patients receiving transplant, cellular therapy, and gene therapy, in late 2023, Manning Family Children's announced plans to build a dedicated unit for patients undergoing stem cell transplants. Patients undergoing stem cell transplantation are profoundly immunosuppressed and require prolonged hospital admissions that can last months. They are at high risk for infections and require enhanced protection while in the hospital.

Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant Units are specially and expertly designed with children's needs in mind and allow for play and socialization within the unit and outside their room because infection risks are minimized through the HEPA filtration system and separation from patients who may spread infections.

As the state's only accredited pediatric stem cell transplant program, the Children's team looks forward to this new unit providing a much-improved patient experience, as stem cell transplant patients are often in the hospital for 1-2 months, and sometimes longer.





Contact us

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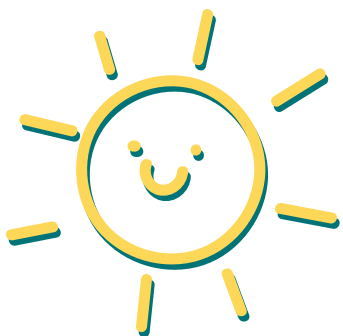
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In proud partnership with our medical schools

