





Inova Children's Hospital Fetal Care Center

Inova Children's Hospital Fetal Care Center provides expert diagnosis and a coordinated delivery plan to pregnant women who are at risk or suspected of carrying a baby with a genetic, congenital heart or other fetal concern that may require specialized pediatric care after birth. The center provides a full continuum of care by combining the expertise of Inova Women's Hospital with highly specialized neonatologists and pediatric subspecialists of Inova Children's Hospital.

What sets us apart is the continuity of care the family receives - since Inova Women's Hospital and Inova Children's Hospital are co-located, mother and baby remain in the same facility after delivery.

What Patients Can Expect

A pregnant woman at risk or suspected of carrying a baby with a congenital abnormality is referred to a pediatric subspecialist, capable of providing expert diagnoses and care to the baby both prenatally and after birth. Our experts will perform any diagnostic tests needed, and with maternal fetal medicine physicians and obstetricians, develop a plan of care for the remainder of the pregnancy and after birth.

Obstetrics and Maternal Fetal Medicine

First trimester ultrasounds, comprehensive ultrasound scans and 3-D and 4-D ultrasounds are available through the Obstetricians and Maternal Fetal Medicine community practitioners who partner with the Fetal Care Center. More advanced diagnostics available include, fetal echocardiography and fetal MRI. Invasive diagnostics include chorionic villus sampling, nuchal translucency and genetic amniocentesis.

Inova Children's Hospital Congenital Heart Program

The Congenital Heart Program at Inova Children's Hospital has been caring for the hearts of our region's children for more than 25 years. Board certified pediatric cardiologists, electrophysiologists, anesthesiologists, radiologists, and congenital cardiac surgeons have dedicated their practice to helping children overcome complex congenital anomalies, including hypoplastic left heart and other single ventricle syndromes. Fetal cardiologists partner with obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine and other pediatric specialists for multi-disciplinary care coordination and consultation. Each year, our pediatric cardiac surgeons perform around 300 surgeries with outcomes that outperform national benchmarks and standards.

Inova Children's Hospital Neuroscience Program

Inova Children's Neuroscience Program is uniquely qualified to evaluate and treat neurological conditions from birth and into adulthood.

Combining the expertise of Inova Children's Hospital with the specialty knowledge of Inova Neuroscience Institute, the program features a full complement of board-certified specialists who cover all aspects of inpatient and outpatient care from diagnosis and treatment to rehabilitation and long-term follow-up.

The pediatric neurosurgeons, neurologists, physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians, and other clinical team members are skilled in the diagnosis and treatment of the most complex congenital brain and spinal cord anomalies. Capabilities include the surgical and non-surgical treatment of Spina Bifida, hydrocephalus, Chiari malformation, tethered spinal cord, encephalocele and intracranial cysts.



One call to the Fetal Care Center patient navigator provides access to the entire care process - 703.776.6371

Inova Children's Hospital Craniofacial Program

Inova Children's Hospital Craniofacial Program and its pediatric experts use a multi-disciplinary approach to evaluate and treat children with craniofacial abnormalities. Pediatric plastic surgeons, neurosurgeons, oral and maxillofacial surgeons, ENTs, dentists, audiologists, and speech and language pathologists see patients in a coordinated clinic model, led by a nurse navigator.

The Craniofacial Program is skilled in the treatment of cleft lip/palate, craniosynostosis, hemifacial microsomia, Pierre Robin Sequence, and other craniofacial abnormalities.

Inova Children's Hospital Surgical Care

The pediatric surgical team at Inova Children's Hospital provides compassionate family-centered care for infants with complex congenital defects of the abdominal wall, gastrointestinal system, and the lung. The surgeons are board-certified in Pediatric General and Thoracic surgery with expertise in the surgical and nonsurgical treatment of gastroschisis, omphalocele, congenital diaphragmatic hernia, intestinal atresia, and congenital cystic airway malformation of the lung.

Inova Children's Hospital Genetics and Inova Translational Medicine Institute

The division of Medical Genomics includes medical geneticists and genetic counselors who are able to provide expectant mothers with genetic testing and counseling for a variety of maternal and fetal diagnoses. In addition to the clinical genetics that Inova is able to provide, the Inova Translational Medicine Institute is a focused on identifying genomic causes for disease and personalized treatment methods. If rare or unknown genetic diagnoses are suspected, the Institute is able to perform full genome sequencing in order to help determine possible diagnoses.

Inova's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

Inova Children's Hospital is home to the region's only Level IV, comprehensive sub-specialty NICU. The NICU is nationally ranked by U.S. News & World Report and consistently receives national recognition for its outcomes.

The 108-bed unit is staffed 24 hours a day by a multidisciplinary team of neonatal specialists, including round the clock in-house board-certified neonatologists, neonatal nurse practitioners and specialized nurses. Our NICU cares for high-risk infants requiring specialized care and observation.

Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)

Inova Children's Hospital is home to the region's only Pediatric Intensive Care And Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Units.

Staffed 24 hours a day by a multidisciplinary team of board-certified intensivists, pediatric intensive care nurses and critical care professionals, our 26-bed PICU also serves as the postoperative care unit for the many pediatric surgery services available at Inova Children's Hospital, including cardiac surgery, craniofacial surgery, neurosurgery and spinal surgery.

The 8-bed Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit provides specialized care for infants and children with congenital heart defects and heart disease. The unit has a specialized team of caregivers that are dedicated to caring for children's hearts, including cardiac intensivists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and specially trained nurses. Rooms within the unit were designed with complex cardiac care in mind, and are built with additional space and capabilities that caring for these complex patients require.

Patient and Family Support Services

Inova Children's Hospital is dedicated to family and patient-centered care and has a host of resources to help support children and their families during their stay. Throughout Inova Children's Hospital, our 24-hour visitation policy encourages parents to spend unlimited time with their children. Within the NICU, PICU and CICU, Child Life specialists assist with sibling visitation and education to ensure that older brothers and sisters are comfortable. Inside of the NICU a parent lounge provides a comfortable space for families to have a meal, rest and work remotely. On the 8th floor, where the PICU and CICU are located, the Ronald McDonald Family Room provides family respite. The Ronald McDonald House of Northern Virginia is located on the Inova Fairfax campus, the House provides families a home away from home while their child is receiving care at Inova Children's Hospital.

Fetal Care Center Team

Margot Ahronovich, MD, *Medical Director*



Dr. Ahronovich serves as medical director of the Inova Children's Hospital Fetal Care Center. In addition to her role leading the Fetal Care Center, Dr. Ahronovich is a neonatologist in the Inova Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Dr. Ahronovich

completed her residency and fellowship at Children's National Medical Center.

Melissa Eatherly, FNP-BC, *Nurse Practitioner*



Melissa is a board certified Nurse Practitioner who leads the Fetal Care Center. She has several years of experience as a nurse in the Inova Children's Hospital Level IV NICU. Melissa earned her Master's in Nursing at George Washington University.

Erin Caulfield, BSN, RN, IBCLC, *Patient Navigator*



Erin is a Registered Nurse who serves as a Patient Navigator at the Fetal Care Center. She provides patient care coordination, support, and education for families. Erin is a board certified Lactation Consultant with over 20 years of experience in the fields of Maternal and Neonatal

Intensive Care nursing. She co-founded and developed the NICU Lactation Program at Inova Children's Hospital.

About Inova Children's Hospital

As Northern Virginia's only pediatric tertiary care center, Inova Children's Hospital is a 226-bed, full-service children's hospital that provides the highest level of patient care. We are home to the only pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) and the most comprehensive Level IV neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) in Northern Virginia. We provide a complete range of expert, specialized children's services in more than 35 medical specialties, close to home.

About Inova Women's Hospital

At Inova Women's Hospital, we have a goal not just to provide today's healthcare, but the future of health. This means many things to us—providing quality care in the safest medical environment, educating the physicians and clinicians of tomorrow, emphasizing public awareness of women's disease to foster early detection and prevention; as well as challenging ourselves through our research efforts to lead the field in providing more personalized care to patients.

To learn more about the Fetal Care Center or to refer a patient, please call 703.776.6371.