

Welcome to Stanford Children's Health Clinic.

Did you know that Stanford Children's Health is a **teaching hospital**? Here is some information about teaching hospitals.

What is a teaching hospital? A teaching hospital is linked to a medical school and Stanford Children's Health Clinics are linked to Stanford University Medical Center.

A teaching hospital

- Is also called an academic medical center.
- Is where doctors and other health care providers train to become general doctors and specialists.
- Is where your health care team may include doctors and other health care providers who are at different levels of training to be specialists in the many areas of medicine.
- Is a place where there is research that is trying to improve medicine and provide advancements.
- Includes a hospital and clinics for all the different specialists.

What benefit will going to a teaching hospital have for me or my child? At a teaching hospital you or your child can get care that other hospitals and clinics cannot give, such as specialty care or for complicated health conditions which requires many people to work together.

What benefit does a teaching hospital offer me or my child

- Clinics at a teaching hospital have the specialists to care for specific health care needs.
- Teaching hospitals may be the only place that you or your child can get the special care you need. Many other clinics do not have specialists, especially for children.
- At a teaching hospital you can have many specialists who work together to help give you all the care you need and cannot get elsewhere.
- At a teaching hospital new ideas are made and shared.
- You or your child may have the opportunity to participate in clinical research studies.
- Research at teaching hospitals helps to advance medicine for all people.
- Having the opportunity to be involved with research means you may have medical care available that is not available outside of the research project.
- You or your child are helping other families and children of the future.
- You or your child are helping to train the future leaders in medicine.

Why are teaching hospitals important? A teaching hospital trains doctors and specialists and is also a place where research is done.

Teaching hospitals are important because

- This is where health care providers train to become doctors and specialists in medicine.
- The health care providers and researchers are involved with or learning about research being done at Stanford Children's Health and other teaching hospitals.
- Health care providers learn about advancements in medicine through research and teaching.
- Through research a teaching hospital is part of making health care better to improve people's lives.
- The entire health care team is exposed to new ideas and technology that may help improve your health.
- Health care teams work together to provide the most advanced health care for you or your child.

What is a health care team? A health care team is a group of health care providers who work together to deliver the best possible care to you or your child.

A health care team

- In a teaching hospital includes specialists in their field to provide care for you or your child.
- Has providers in training who elevate the quality of care because the system includes teaching and sharing of the most up to date knowledge.
- May have many specialists from the same service who rotate onto the team that cares for you or your child.
- Has many members so you may not always see the same providers each time.
- Meets together frequently to review your or your child's health care needs, so that many providers can give expertise and all providers can become familiar with you or your child.
- Has many health care providers thinking about how best to care for you or your child.

What is my role or my child's role on the health care team? Patients, parents and families are all part of the health care team.

Your or your child's role

- Is to be part of all health care decisions.
- Is to ask questions and make sure you have all the information you want about your or your child's health
- Is to help the health care teams understand yours or yours child's needs and wishes.
- Is to make sure that there is no missing information when health care decisions are made.

How does a clinic at a teaching hospital like Stanford Children's Health differ from a general clinic?

The clinics at a teaching hospital are where you or your child can be seen by a specialist.

Clinics at a teaching hospital differ from a general clinic because

- You or your child can see a specialist not easily found at other clinics.
- All specialists share the clinic space and so each specialty clinic will only meet some of the time.
- Your or your child's specialist may one hold a clinic a couple of times a week, so you may have only a few options to choose an appointment time.
- If you see more than one specialist you may have to go to different buildings for each appointment.
- You or your child is being seen by a specialist, so you may not be able to make an appointment the first time you call. The health care team must review your or your child's health needs and make sure you are being seen by the right person. This may take a few days.

Meet the people that may be part of the Health Care Team that cares for you or your child. We are introducing these people in the order of who you may see as you move through your clinic visit.

- The **FRONT DESK STAFF** have completed training and are the face of the clinic. The front desk staff answers phone calls, help you and your child check in and out of the clinic, and answer questions about the clinic visit.
- A **MEDICAL ASSISTANT (MA)** has completed training to perform specific duties under the supervision of a doctor. The medical assistant may take medical histories, record vital signs, explain treatments, prepare you or your child for examinations, assist during examinations, and help communicate with other health care providers.
- A **REGISTERED NURSE (RN)** has completed a nursing program and is a member of your or your child's care team who may perform specialty procedures, provide medical advice and teaching, and help with home care.
- A **MEDICAL STUDENT** is learning to become a doctor. The medical student is supervised by the attending physician, fellow, and resident and may be part of your or your child's care team.
- A **RESIDENT PHYSICIAN** is a doctor who has completed medical school and is now training in a specialty such as pediatrics or surgery. The resident is supervised by the attending physician and works with the care team to make decisions about your or your child's care.
- A **FELLOW PHYSICIAN** is a doctor who has completed medical school and residency in a field, such as pediatrics or surgery, who is training to become a specialist such as a pediatric heart specialist. The fellow is supervised by the attending physician and works with the care team to make decisions about your or your child's care.
- An **ATTENDING PHYSICIAN** is a doctor who has completed all training and is in charge of your or your child's health care. An attending physician might lead a team of doctors in training, including medical students, residents, and fellows and supervise physician assistants. You or your child may see a doctor in training first and then be seen by the entire care team including the attending physician.
- A **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA)** is a health care provider who has completed graduate training and works closely with their supervising doctor. The physician assistant is a member of the health care team who will be involved with all parts of your or your child's care including physical exams, preventive care, and treatment.
- A **NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP)** is a health care provider who has completed graduate training in areas such as pediatrics or surgery. A nurse practitioner is a member of the health care team who will be involved with all parts of your or your child's care including physical exams, preventive care, and treatment.
- A **SOCIAL WORKER (SW)** has completed specialized training to provide support to you and your child to handle illnesses and treatment plans and to help with access to health care, resources, and education.

Some clinics have special people to help with your or your child's care.

- A **RESPIRATORY THERAPIST** is trained to evaluate and provide care for patients with breathing problems. A respiratory therapist may perform breathing tests and treatments, provide patient teaching, and help with equipment needs.
- A **CLINICAL NUTRITIONIST/REGISTERED DIETICIAN (CN/RD)** is trained to be an expert in food and nutrition. A nutritionist or dietician can help you or your child make healthy food and lifestyle choices.
- A **GENETIC COUNSELOR (GC)** is a health provider who has completed training in medical genetics and counseling. The genetic counselor helps people understand and handle the genetic causes of disease.