

How To Refer

Physicians can refer patients for transplant evaluation by calling 412-692-6110 or emailing PedsTXInquiry@upmc.edu.

Referral Checklist

The checklist below outlines what is needed to refer a patient to UPMC Children's.

DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

- Patient name
- Patient date of birth
- Patient address
- Patient Social Security number
- Patient insurance information (copy of insurance card, if available)
- Parent/Guardian contact information (including home and cell phone numbers)

MEDICAL RECORDS REQUIRED

- Most recent outpatient clinic note
- Updated medication list
- All operative notes, including central line placement
- All vascular studies
- Radiologic studies, including CT scans, MRI, ultrasound, and Doppler studies
- Kidney biopsy reports (if reported)
- If patient is currently hospitalized, current hospitalization records

Contact Us

Phone: 412-692-9969
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 412-692-5325
24 hrs. ask for Pediatric Nephrologist on call

Fax: 412-692-7443



About UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

Regionally, nationally, and globally, UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh is a recognized leader in pediatric care. We are dedicated to advancing the treatment of childhood diseases, developing innovative therapies, and educating the next generation of pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists.

Since our founding in 1890, and with the support of our community, UPMC Children's has remained committed to this mission.

UPMC Children's is consistently recognized among the nation's top pediatric hospitals, including earning a place on the prestigious *U.S. News & World Report* Honor Roll of America's Best Children's Hospitals for 2025–2026.



UPMC policy prohibits discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, genetics, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, familial status, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected group status. Further, UPMC will continue to support and promote equal employment opportunity, human dignity, and racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity. This policy applies to admissions, employment, and access to and treatment in UPMC programs and activities. This commitment is made by UPMC in accordance with federal, state, and/or local laws and regulations.

Pediatric Kidney Transplantation

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh is one of the most active and experienced pediatric kidney transplant centers in the country, with a long-standing commitment to improving outcomes for children with end-stage kidney disease. Our focus is simple: restore health, minimize complications, and support long-term success for every child we serve.

Why UPMC Children's

- **Nationally recognized program:** Designated a Pediatric Transplant Center of Excellence by Optum
- **High-volume, high-complexity care:** Extensive experience managing medically complex patients
- **Leading living donor program:** One of the largest pediatric living donor kidney transplant programs in the United States
- **Exceptional early transplant access:** Pre-emptive transplant rates nearly double the national average (55% vs. 25%, according to UNOS/OPTN data)

Clinical Innovation & Expertise

- **Pioneers in immunosuppression:** First program to use tacrolimus as a primary agent
- **Steroid minimization and avoidance:** Modern protocols allow most patients to avoid long-term steroid use
- **Advanced induction strategies:** Alemtuzumab-based regimens support excellent long-term graft outcomes
- **Transplant in small children:** Expertise in children as small as 8–9 kg
- **Complex surgical expertise:** Including patients with limited vascular access
- **Selective native nephrectomy approach:** Not routinely required for FSGS, nephrotic syndrome, or high-grade reflux without recurrent infections
- **Multi-organ transplant capabilities:** Liver-kidney, heart-kidney, and multivisceral transplants
- **Autotransplant evaluation available:** For select vascular and pain syndromes

Comprehensive Care

- **National leader in infection management,** including EBV-related PTLD and BK virus
- **Multidisciplinary support:** Dedicated transplant pathology and histocompatibility services
- **Collaborative care model:** Active participant in the Improving Renal

Outcomes That Matter

Our outcomes consistently rank among the best in the country, even while caring for patients with greater complexity than national averages.

SURVIVAL RATES*

Patient Survival Rates

1 Year 100% (national average 99.35%)
3 Year 100% (national average 98.95%)

Graft Survival Rates

1 Year 97.14% (national average 96.95%)
3 Year 100% (national average 93.18%)

*Source: *Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (www.srtr.org)*, Jan. 2026 release

Volumes

Transplant Type	Yearly Average (2020-2025)	01/01/1988 through 12/31/2025
Living Donor	9	263
Deceased Donor	8	261
Total	100	524

Meet the Team

Our Leadership



Armando Ganoza, MD
Surgical Director
Pediatric Kidney Transplant Program

Dr. Ganoza is the surgical director of the Pediatric Kidney Transplant Program at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. He is an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He oversees all clinical and research activities for UPMC's Kidney Transplant Program. Dr. Ganoza's clinical interests include kidney, liver, pancreas, and intestinal transplantation in children and adults. He is also experienced in autologous islet-cell transplantation for chronic pancreatitis.

Dr. Ganoza received fellowship training in kidney, pancreas, and small bowel transplant surgery from the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute and UPMC Children's. He also trained in transplant and hepatobiliary surgery at Medstar Georgetown University Hospital.



Juhi Kumar, MD
Medical Director
Pediatric Kidney Transplant Program

Dr. Kumar is the clinical director of the Pediatric Kidney Transplant Program at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She joined the faculty at UPMC Children's in 2022 as the medical director of the Pediatric Kidney Transplant Program.

Dr. Kumar earned her medical degree from LLRM Medical College in India. She completed her residency training in pediatrics at SUNY-Downstate Medical Center, located in Brooklyn, New York, and then went on to complete a pediatric nephrology fellowship at Children's Hospital at Montefiore in the Bronx, New York. She earned her Master's in Public Health from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Our Experts



Jessica Bleil Orris, PHD
Behavioral Pediatrics



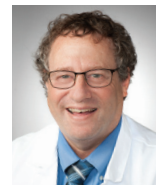
Glenn Cannon, MD
Chief, Division of Pediatric Urology



Rajeev Chaudhry, MD
Pediatric Urology



Cassandra Formeck, MD
Pediatric Nephrology



Michael Green, MD
Co-Director, Transplant Infectious Diseases



Jacqueline Ho, MD
Pediatric Nephrology



Emily Horosko, PA
Pediatric Nephrology



Katherine L. Kurzinski, MD
Pediatric Nephrology, Director of Dialysis



Marian Michaels, MD
Co-Director, Transplant Infectious Diseases



Kathryn O'Brien, DO
Pediatric Nephrology



Aidan Porter, MD
Pediatric Nephrology



Parmjeet Randhawa, MD
Director, Renal Transplant Pathology
Quality Assurance Program



Amit Tevar, MD
Surgical Director, UPMC Kidney and
Pancreas Transplant Program



Adriana Zeevi, PhD (D) ABHI
Director, Histocompatibility Laboratory



Yifeng Zhang, DO
Pediatric Nephrology

