

Texas Children's Newborn Center®

Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Program

Texas Children's provides comprehensive, advanced care for fetuses and infants with congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH), spanning prenatal diagnosis, fetal intervention evaluation, delivery planning, neonatal stabilization, surgical repair, pulmonary hypertension management, and long-term follow-up.

Our specialized multidisciplinary team partners with families and referring providers to develop individualized care plans, translating complex diagnoses into optimal outcomes across the full spectrum of CDH severity.

2020-2025 Volumes

144

Patients
Treated

19

FETO
Patients

24/yr

Annual
Program
Volume

14507+

ECMO
Program
Hours

Advanced diagnostics starting in pregnancy

Through Texas Children's Fetal Center, families and referring providers have access to advanced prenatal imaging, risk stratification, delivery planning, and evaluation for fetal endoscopic tracheal occlusion (FETO) in eligible patients with severe CDH.

Key capabilities include:

- Fetal ultrasound, MRI, and echocardiography
- Evaluation for FETO in severe CDH
- Coordinated delivery planning with neonatal, surgical, ECMO, and pulmonary hypertension specialists
- Longitudinal follow-up through dedicated CDH clinics

Program Leadership: Your Partners in CDH Care



Christopher J. Rhee, MD, MS

Co-Director, CDH Program



Joseph A. Garcia-Prats, MD

Co-Director, CDH Program



ECMO and Advanced Cardiopulmonary Support

For infants with severe cardiopulmonary compromise, Texas Children's offers advanced cardiopulmonary support, including extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), as part of a comprehensive CDH treatment strategy. Texas Children's Hospital has maintained the ELSO Platinum Level Center of Excellence designation since 2021 and is recognized for its expertise in managing the most complex CDH patients and other sick neonates requiring advanced respiratory and circulatory support.

Program expertise includes:

- Advanced ventilation strategies tailored to CDH physiology
- Comprehensive pulmonary hypertension management
- ECMO support for the most critically ill CDH patients
- Comprehensive neuromonitoring for all ECMO patients including cerebral oximetry and continuous electroencephalogram
- Multidisciplinary perioperative management
- Transport capability for qualified patients

Outcomes Across the Spectrum of Disease:

From 2020-2025, Texas Children's achieved the following survival rates

88-89%

Mild/Mod

76%

Mod II

52%

Severe

Advancing CDH Care:

Improving Outcomes Through Research and Innovation

Texas Children's faculty actively participate in clinical research and quality improvement initiatives aimed at advancing care for patients with CDH.



Scan the QR Code

to view recent publications, presentations, and scholarly work from the Texas Children's CDH Program.



Why Refer to Texas Children's?

- A high-volume CDH program delivering coordinated care across the fetal-to-neonatal continuum through a multidisciplinary team experienced in managing the most complex forms of CDH.
- Expertise spanning maternal-fetal medicine, neonatology, pediatric surgery, pulmonary hypertension, cardiology, nutrition, developmental medicine, and ECMO.
- Level IV NICU with advanced ventilation strategies and ECMO support for infants with severe cardiopulmonary disease.
- Dedicated multidisciplinary CDH follow-up focused on pulmonary health, growth and nutrition, developmental outcomes, and family support.



One Call Connects You to Expert Care

Speak directly with a Texas Children's physician for a peer-to-peer consultation, second opinion, or transfer request at **1-877-770-5550**.

- 24/7 Consultation and Transport Services: Immediate Dispatch
- Rapid Response by Texas Children's Kangaroo Crew, a highly trained team providing fast, safe, state-of-the-art transport by land and sky.
- Provider Call → Attending-to-Attending Consultation → Dispatch of Mobile Neonatal ICU Team



Your Patient. Our Shared Commitment.

We view referring providers as essential members of the care team. Our goal is to maintain open communication throughout the patient's hospitalization and support a seamless transition back to your care whenever appropriate.

- Real-Time Communication: Within 72 hours of admission, a Texas Children's attending neonatologist will contact you to discuss the patient's initial stabilization, diagnostic evaluation, and treatment plan.
- Ongoing Provider Updates: Follow your patient's care and receive timely updates through our online provider portal, Texas Children's Link.



Additional Provider Resources

- Newborn Center Referring Provider Liaison: **Call 832-824-0981** for Texas Children's Link access, program information, patient follow-up, educational offerings and other inquiries.
- Provider Connect: Call **832-TCH-CARE (832-824-2273)** for assistance with referrals, accessing or navigating a Texas Children's service, or connecting with another on-call specialist for non-emergent requests.

Multiple Locations. One Expert Team.

Texas Children's Hospital
6621 Fannin St.
Houston, TX 77030

Texas Children's Pavilion for Women
6651 Main St.
Houston, TX 77030

Texas Children's Hospital The Woodlands
17580 I-45 S.
The Woodlands, TX 77384

Texas Children's Hospital Austin
9835 N. Lake Creek Pkwy.
Austin, TX 78717

texaschildrens.org/nicu

