

# Maternal Heart Program

## Specialized care for women with heart disease

Texas Children's Pavilion for Women is making pregnancy possible for women with congenital or acquired heart disease. The Maternal Heart Program optimizes safety and outcomes for patients who are cared for by specialists in both high-risk pregnancy and heart disease. This collaboration offers a unique advantage in managing pregnancy and minimizing risk every step of the way.



### A proven approach

Studies show specialized care and a collaborative approach are important to managing increased risks that pregnancy poses to women with heart disease, including:

- Arrhythmias
- Pulmonary edema
- Premature birth
- Congenital heart defect in the baby
- Effects on fetal growth

### Our services

Women with heart disease often receive mixed messages about their ability to have children. Our program helps patients navigate complex pregnancies to help ensure a safe pregnancy for both mother and child. We provide:

- Convenient "one-stop" appointments at the Pavilion for Women for most clinic services.
- Pre-conception counseling with a maternal-fetal medicine specialist and a cardiologist, who together assess pregnancy risk and provide genetic counseling.
- Critical communication and coordination among the patient's medical team.
- Experts with years of experience treating pregnant women with heart disease.
- Specialized OB/GYN critical care unit with dedicated ICU support for critically ill patients.
- The most advanced technologies and treatments for high-risk pregnancies and births.
- Genetic counseling to evaluate potential risk factors and facilitate necessary genetic testing, screening and interpretation of results.
- Close collaboration with the patient's obstetrician or prenatal care from one of our maternal-fetal medicine specialists.
- Access to fetal and neonatal specialists, should the baby have health problems in the womb or after delivery.

### Maternal Heart Clinic

Patients with congenital or acquired heart disease who are pregnant are seen in our Maternal Heart Clinic by a maternal-fetal medicine specialist and a cardiologist who provide a roadmap for the patient's care during pregnancy, labor and the postpartum period. The clinic is located in the Maternal-Fetal Center on the 4th floor of Texas Children's Pavilion for Women. Please call 832-826-4MFM (4636) with any questions.

## Preconception Cardiac Clinic

Patients with congenital or acquired heart disease who are considering pregnancy are seen in our Preconception Cardiac Clinic by a cardiologist, maternal-fetal medicine specialist and genetic counselor who evaluate the patient's cardiac status and discuss ways to optimize their health prior to pregnancy and what to expect during pregnancy. The clinic is located in Legacy Tower on the 24th floor. Please call **832-826-4MFM (4636)** with any questions.

## Meet our team



**Manisha Gandhi, MD**  
Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist



**Amir Shamshirsaz, MD**  
Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist  
Critical Care Specialist



**Angeline Opina Gonzalez, MD**  
Cardiologist



**Peter R. Ermis, MD, FACC**  
Cardiologist



**Katherine B. Saliccioli, MD**  
Cardiologist

## Location

### Texas Children's Pavilion for Women Maternal Heart Program

6651 Main St., 4th Floor, Suite F420  
Houston, TX 77030  
Phone: 832-826-4636



### How to refer a patient

Please visit [women.texaschildrens.org/refer](https://women.texaschildrens.org/refer), select "Maternal Fetal Medicine", select "Pavilion for Women" as a location and submit the online referral form. Complete as much of the form as possible and attach patient medical records before submitting. Medical records can also be faxed to **832-824-7333**.

If you have any questions, please call the Provider Connect team at **832-TCH-CARE (832-824-2273)**.  
For transfer of care by phone, please call the Maternal Heart Program at **832-826-4MFM (4636)**.  
For hospital-to-hospital transfers, call **832-824-5550**.

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