

# WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTHCARE, Kids are Different

Children are complex and unique, and so are their healthcare needs. They deserve healthcare that's specific to and focused only on them.

"No child is typical, and no children's illness or disease is textbook. Diagnoses that might be commonplace for adults can be life-threatening for children. Fortunately, children's hospitals offer exceptional care and specialized treatments performed by highly trained and singularly dedicated physicians," says W. Glaze Vaughan, MD, board-certified Pediatric Surgeon and Director of Pediatric Surgery at East Tennessee Children's Hospital.

"At East Tennessee Children's Hospital, our training is specific to treating children, and we have experience that isn't available outside of a children's hospital," Vaughan adds. "Providers experienced in subspecialties like pediatric anesthesia, surgery, neurology, and emergency medicine have a knowledge of pediatric anatomy and physiology that you won't find in adult community, or even university hospitals."

Jeffrey Queen, MD, a board-certified Pediatric Anesthesiologist, concurs.

"The fact that we care only for children sets us apart; what is a small part of a general hospital practice is all that we do," he says.

Children's Hospital has been caring for children in East Tennessee for more than 80 years. The hospital sees children ages newborn through 21 years and admits 6,000 patients, treats more than 68,000 emergency room patients, and receives more than 168,000 outpatient visits each year. More than 800 neonatal intensive care unit patients are treated annually, and Children's Hospital services extend to women experiencing high-risk pregnancies.

## INNOVATIONS IN PEDIATRIC SURGERY

The Children's Hospital pediatric surgery team consists of more than 40 physicians who perform more than 10,000 procedures

annually, from tonsillectomies to neonatal surgeries. While pediatrics has traditionally been slower to adopt new techniques and therapies—instrumentation favors adult patients—innovation is becoming more a part of the process now that the companies that produce innovative products and tools are finally miniaturizing them.

"We recently operated on a seven-month-old child born with a congenital lung defect using minimally invasive tools and techniques. Ten years ago, it would have been a much different surgery," Vaughan says. "Today we can minimize pain and trauma, hospital stays are shorter, and it's frequently an overall better patient experience."

Children's Hospital has also recently opened a new surgery center featuring 14 state-of-the-art surgery suites, each designed to deliver an improved overall experience for surgery patients and their families.

## A NONPROFIT, INDEPENDENT, AND PRIVATE HOSPITAL

"We accept all children regardless of ability to pay," explains Vaughan of Children's Hospital's nonprofit status. "Children are among the most vulnerable of patient populations; it's our job to ensure they receive the services they require to grow up strong and healthy."

Queen notes that the independent and private labels also provide benefit to patients.

"We aren't affiliated with a large hospital system," he says. "So our patients don't get lost in the shuffle. Our only focus is on children, their families, and their experience."

"East Tennessee Children's Hospital is an extraordinary facility, a flagship comprehensive pediatric hospital with expertise not widely available elsewhere," Queen continues. "It's a blessing to have it here in the Knoxville area."



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