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Chiefs' Notes

SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER TO PHYSICIANS

Streamlined Access for Inpatient and Outpatient Referrals

In response to input from referring physicians in the community, MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC) has simplified the referral process for both outpatient appointments and inpatient admissions.

One Number for All Outpatient Referrals and Consultations

Pediatricians and other primary care providers can reach an MGHfC physician or arrange for their patients to be seen in an MGHfC specialty clinic with a single phone call by calling the MGHfC Access and Appointment Center at **888-644-3211**.

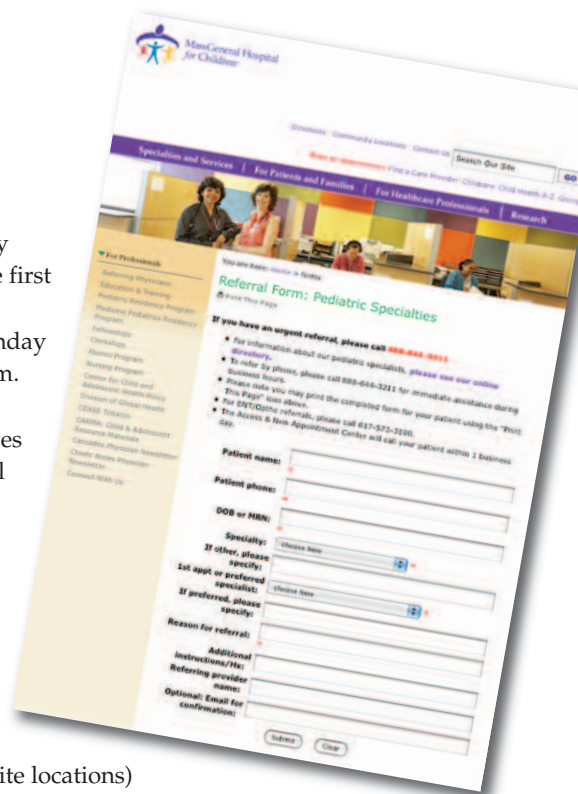
The goal of the MGHfC Access and Appointment Center is to create a single, convenient, and service-oriented entry point for patient registration and appointment scheduling. Physicians or a member of their office staff need only provide the Access Center with the following patient information during the call:

- Name
- Telephone number
- Address
- Date of birth
- Social security number
- Type of insurance
- Emergency contact

Generally new patients are seen within two weeks. Timing can vary by service. Urgent patient referrals can often be made within one day.

Calls are consistently answered within the first three rings during business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Access Center representatives complete the referral process, including:

- Working with patients to determine preferred appointment location (e.g. Boston or one of MGHfC's 14 satellite locations)
- Confirming appointment date, time, and location with the patient's family
- Ensuring registration is complete
- Mailing a welcome packet with appointment confirmation, new patient questionnaire, a list of materials required at the first visit, directions to the facility, and maps that show walking times from parking garages to office locations



Online Referral Form

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Referrals for patient visits to MGHfC outpatient specialty clinics can be made two ways:

CALL 888-644-3211

ONLINE MassGeneralforChildren.org/Refer



MassGeneral for ChildrenSM

Streamlined Access for Inpatient and Outpatient Referrals *Continued from page 1*

Patients, referring providers, and office staff can also use the online appointment request form that is available on our website's home page under the "make an appointment" link. People using this option are contacted within 24 hours of the receipt of the request.

Urgent Appointment Requests

Requests for urgent outpatient appointments can be facilitated by the Access Center. Patients with urgent clinical issues are usually seen within 24 hours.

As with non-urgent appointments, the pediatrician can follow up with the family and let them know that someone from the Access Center will be contacting them shortly to make the appointment.

Easy Access to Specialists

Referring physicians and their office staff can reach MGHfC specialists and subspecialists through the Access Center. Access representatives collect relevant information, communicate it to the clinical unit, and connect the caller to the unit. This process saves time for referring physicians by eliminating hold time and obviating the need to repeat information or call registration.

Improved Inpatient Admissions Access

Physicians should call **877-644-8988** for the following:

- Transfers of in-patients for hospital to hospital transfers
- Emergency Room to Emergency Room transfers
- Patients requiring ICU care either in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit

This number allows for transfers to the MGHfC neonatal ICU, pediatric ICU, general care units, and emergency department. MGHfC has recently honed the protocol for inpatient admissions and improved processes for bed requests and assignments to provide easier access and faster answers about bed availability.

MGHfC neonatal and pediatric transport services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Direct Admissions

An urgent direct admit process is in place for referring physicians whose patients have been seen in the office on the day of admission. This process is dependent on where the patient is coming from and the service to which the patient will be admitted.

All direct admit patients must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Patient has been seen by a Partners, PCHI or CHA pediatrician on the day of admission.
- Patients must be clinically stable and not in need of oxygen or immediate IV fluids, antibiotics, or imaging. (*Oncology patients with fever and neutropenia are the only exception to this rule.*)

Referring physicians seeking to admit a patient to the Hospitalist's service or with questions regarding patient eligibility for direct admission should call 617-726-2000 and page the Hospitalist on call at 21900.

Those physicians admitting a patient to their own service at MGHfC should call 617-726-3393. Direct admissions should arrive before 4 p.m. to assure the best communication between the admitting physician and the admitting team.

Referring physicians should be prepared to provide patient name, date of birth, reason for admission/diagnosis, and information regarding bed restrictions. In addition, the referring physician should notify the family that one parent will need to complete registration in the Admitting Department once the child is on the floor.

MGHfC is committed to serving the needs of referring physicians and their patients.

For any **outpatient access** related issues or problems referring patients to MGHfC specialists, please call:

Julé Frechette
*Administrative Director and
Physician Relations Officer for
MassGeneral Hospital for Children
and Partners Pediatrics*
617-880-9502

For **inpatient access** related issues, please call:

Jo-Anne Riley, RN, MHA
Pediatric Access Nurse
617-643-6250

She can also be paged at 18150 by calling the main number at 617-726-2000.

Food Allergy Center Provides Comprehensive, Coordinated Care

To assist primary care providers with diagnosis and treatment of their patients with known or suspected food allergies, Massachusetts General Hospital and MassGeneral Hospital *for Children* (MGHfC) have launched a new Food Allergy Center that integrates patient-centered research and evidence-based multidisciplinary care. Intended to provide seamless care for individuals with any food allergy throughout their lives, the program includes specialists in pediatric and adult medicine.

Patients seen at the multidisciplinary clinics of the Food Allergy Center are evaluated and treated by a team of providers that includes allergists,

gastroenterologists, nutritionists, and psychologists. When appropriate, additional specialists are also engaged, including dermatologists, pulmonologists, and otolaryngologists. Clinics meet twice monthly at the main Mass General campus in Boston and at Mass General West in Waltham. Over the next year, additional pediatric and adult food allergy clinics will be offered at both the main campus and community locations.

Specialized testing includes allergy skin tests, atopy patch testing, ingestion challenge testing and, when appropriate, endoscopy and biopsy. Coordinated care includes expert dietary guidance regarding avoidance strategies and

maintenance of a well balanced and healthy diet from dietitians. Scheduling and support for follow up testing is focused on family and child needs.

Clinical research priorities include a clinical trial of oral immunotherapy for children between the ages of 3 and 21 with peanut allergy, and efforts to identify a less invasive means for guiding diet intervention for patients with eosinophilic esophagitis. Mass General will be one of only a few centers worldwide offering the immunotherapy trial for peanut allergy.

For questions regarding food allergies or to refer a patient for evaluation, please call 617-643-6834. Calls are returned within 24 hours.

Recognitions



Gary Russell, MD,

MGHfC gastroenterologist, was named Humanitarian of the Year by the New England Chapter of Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America (CCFA) for his volunteer work as co-medical director of the

New England and New York Camp Oasis program. Camp Oasis (www.ccf.org/kidsteens/camp) in Elizaville, New York was created by the CCFA and it welcomes children ages 8 to 17 years with inflammatory bowel disease. "They get to have fun. It's a camp. It is a place where kids with inflammatory bowel disease don't have to worry about whether they've had surgery, whether they have an ileostomy or how many times they have to run to the bathroom, because everyone around them is facing the same issues and it's just no big deal," Russell says. "It's a unique place for them to be themselves and have fun." Russell's work for the camp is not limited to the five nights he is away at the camp. Russell reviews the applications to ensure the children are medically stable and can safely be away at camp. He also helps establish camp protocols and regulations, and secures medical staff.



Harland Winter, MD,

MGHfC gastroenterologist, was honored for his lifetime contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology as the recipient of the 2010 Distinguished Service Award given by the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN). NASPGHAN's award recognizes "excellence and service to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition by achieving national and/or international recognition in the field." Winter has been a leader in his field for 30 years. He was president of NASPGHAN from 1998 to 2000, during which time he started the Children's Digestive Health and Nutrition Foundation, and along with many colleagues started the first educational campaign for healthcare providers and families of children with gastroesophageal reflux disease. In 2000, Winter organized and chaired the first World Congress of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition, at which the Latin American, European, Asian, and Commonwealth Societies met together in Boston. This event has taken place every four years since, and enables clinicians and scientists from around the world to work together to improve the care of children with gastrointestinal disease.

Pediatric Neurosurgery Programs Expand Under New Leadership



Anne-Christina (Tina) Duhaime, MD, Director, Pediatric Neurosurgery and Director, Neurosurgical Trauma and Intensive Care and Nicholas T. Zervas Professor of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School

As part of its mission to provide outstanding, personalized, and developmentally appropriate care for infants, children, and adolescents, nationally accredited MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC) has formalized its pediatric neurosurgery program under the leadership of Anne-Christina Duhaime, MD. The program will continue offering multidisciplinary care for children with a variety of nervous system problems, says Dr. Duhaime, while capitalizing on Mass General's unique strengths in science and technology to advance understanding of normal brain function and to optimize treatments for the disease processes that affect children of all ages.

Advances made at Mass General and other major academic medical centers have improved care for adult patients in fields like oncology and movement disorders. Translating these innovative treatments into appropriate pediatric protocols requires experts from a wide range of pediatric and adult specialties working together in a collaborative environment that values controlled progress toward safe new treatments. According to Dr. Duhaime, "MassGeneral Hospital for Children embodies these values, combining incredible strength in imaging, psychiatry, neurology, neuroradiology, neurosurgery, ethics, neuropsychology, child development, pediatric social work, pediatric nursing, child behavior, and education with a track record of careful, objective multidisciplinary research into brain function."

Advancing Treatment of Pediatric Brain Tumors

Mass General has become a leader in the development of personalized medicine for cancer patients and has established a dedicated laboratory in which tumor specimens are genotyped for specific mutations known to respond to existing drugs or that represent new targets for drug development. This approach has revealed opportunities to use targeted therapies in diverse cancers. Routine screening for many cancers, including brain tumors, is already in place for adult patients. Using genotyping in pediatric brain tumors could lead to similar treatment advances in childhood brain cancers.

MGHfC also continues to offer national and local protocols for the treatment of children with brain cancers and to invest in technology and staffing to improve surgical outcomes. When the new inpatient and outpatient facility opens, for example, it will house a state-of-the-art neurosurgical operative suite, complete with a high-field intraoperative MRI and other on-site imaging capabilities.

MGHfC is also adding a team of specialists in pediatric intraoperative monitoring who have extensive experience in detailed techniques for monitoring and mapping brain function during surgery specifically in children. "This team, in concert with the other specialists and subspecialists and the tools and techniques already available to us here at MGH, means we have available any resources required by any given

patient,” says Dr. Duhaime. “Treatment of tumors, refractory epilepsy, and congenital malformations all may benefit from these new collaborations.”

Understanding Deep Brain Stimulation Use in Children

Deep brain stimulation (DBS), used for the treatment of Parkinson’s disease and other disorders in adults, represents another area where interdisciplinary collaboration can lead to safe and effective translation of adult treatments into improved pediatric care. DBS has already been used in adolescents and even some younger children for various types of movement disorders. Emad Eskandar, MD, director of stereotactic and functional neurosurgery at MGH/C, is investigating the effect of DBS on disorders with behavioral components like Tourette syndrome. According to Dr. Duhaime, DBS appears promising for treatment of many other diseases and syndromes,

“This team, in concert with the other specialists and subspecialists and the tools and techniques already available to us here at MGH, means we have available any resources required by any given patient.”

including specific forms of epilepsy, certain types of learning and attention problems, and some behavioral and psychiatric diseases. She is also planning to work with an area rehabilitation hospital to explore how DBS might be used to promote recovery of function in

patients with brain injuries.

“This technology has the capacity to modulate brain function with treatments that can be titrated or terminated, that don’t involve creating permanent lesions in the brain, and that involve only a brief inpatient stay,” says Dr. Duhaime. “Our role will be to determine whether such an approach presents any long-term benefits or side-effects in the developing brain and, if the technology proves safe, to continue expanding exploration of the potential uses of DBS in the pediatric population.”

Enhancing Brain Recovery Following Injury

Of particular interest to Dr. Duhaime is the response of the brain to injury as a function of maturational stage of the brain at the time the injury occurs. Currently her laboratory is involved in basic science research in this area as well as participating in a multicenter trial using instrumented helmets to study what

mechanisms are linked to specific brain problems in young athletes. Clinical researchers in pediatric neurosurgery at MGH/C are also participating in national studies designed to gather sophisticated data on traumatic brain injury from large numbers of adults and children.

Information gleaned from these studies will ultimately be integrated into stratified, multidisciplinary treatment trials for infants, children, and adults with various specific types of traumatic brain injuries, as well as investigating host factors, such as genetics, which influence outcome.

In addition to these new areas of research, MGH/C will continue to provide general pediatric neurosurgical services, including care for patients with hydrocephalus and brain cysts, craniofacial disorders, congenital anomalies of the spine and brain, vascular problems, and pediatric brain and spinal cord tumors, with a commitment to provide child-friendly ancillary diagnostic and perioperative services. The hospital will also continue offering proton radiation therapy and consultations for pediatric neurosurgical patients from around the world. Mass General is one of only a handful of centers in the United States offering proton therapy, an important option for children because of the minimized danger to healthy tissue. Proton therapy exemplifies the type of unique treatment options available at MGH/C for children with a wide diversity of nervous system problems. With the expansion of the Pediatric Neurosurgery program, more children may benefit from the wide variety of innovative services offered at Mass General.

New Physicians

Child & Adolescent Health Policy



ELIZABETH GOODMAN, MD
*Director, Child & Adolescent Health Policy,
Associate Chief for Community-Based Research*
MD degree: Columbia University College
of Physicians and Surgeons
Residency: Children's Hospital Boston
Fellowship/s: Children's Hospital Boston,
Adolescent Medicine
Clinical interests: Social stratification,
obesity, insulin resistance, and other
cardiometabolic risks

Critical Care



RYAN CARROLL, MD, MPH
MD degree: Ben-Gurion University, Medical
School in International Health in collaboration
with Columbia University Health Sciences
Residency: Children's Hospital at
Dartmouth, Pediatrics
Fellowship/s: Children's Memorial Hospital,
Chicago, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
Board certification/s: Pediatrics; Pediatric
Critical Care Medicine
Clinical interests: Neurocritical care cellular
mechanisms of disease, and determining the
pathogenesis of cerebral malaria

Endocrinology



ERAY SAVGON-GUROL, MD
MD degree: Istanbul University Cerrahpasa
Medical School, Istanbul, Turkey
Residency: University of Iowa Children's
Hospital, Pediatrics
Fellowship/s: University of Iowa Children's
Hospital, Pediatric Endocrinology;
Massachusetts General Hospital, Pediatric
Endocrinology
Board certification/s: Pediatrics
Clinical interests: General pediatric
endocrinology, growth and nutritional
disorders, neuroendocrinology, adrenal
disorders, diabetes mellitus, diabetes mellitus
type 1, diabetes mellitus type 2, and disorders
of calcium and bone

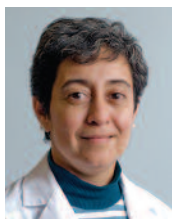
Gastroenterology



KRISTON GANGULI, MD
MD degree: University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis
Residency: Tufts Medical Center, Pediatrics;
Boston Medical Center, Pediatric Psychiatry
Fellowship/s: Massachusetts General Hospital,
Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition
Board certification/s: Pediatrics; Pediatric
Gastroenterology, Board Eligible
Clinical interests: Inflammatory bowel
diseases: Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis,
liver and pancreatic disorders, GERD, failure
to thrive, short bowel syndrome, celiac
disease, necrotizing enterocolitis prevention



CHRISTOPHER MORAN, MD
MD degree: Tufts University School
of Medicine
Residency: MassGeneral Hospital for
Children, Pediatrics
Fellowship/s: Mass General Hospital for
Children, Pediatric Gastroenterology,
Hepatology, and Nutrition
Board certification/s: Pediatrics; Pediatric
Gastroenterology, Board Eligible
Clinical interests: Inflammatory bowel
disease, celiac disease, gastrointestinal and
nutritional disorders of infants, children and
adolescents, immunodeficiency syndromes



JYOTI RAMAKRISHNA, MBBS, MD
MD degree: MBBS, Lady Hardinge Medical
College, New Delhi, India
Residency: Kalawati Saran Childrens
Hospital/LHMC, Delhi University;
Westchester Medical Center/New York
Medical College
Fellowship/s: Floating Hospital/Tufts
University, Pediatric Gastroenterology
and Nutrition
Board certification/s: Pediatrics; Pediatric
Gastroenterology and Nutrition
Clinical interests: Gastroesophageal reflux
disease, gastrointestinal food allergy including
celiac disease and eosinophilic esophagitis
and eosinophilic gastrointestinal disease,
inflammatory bowel diseases: Crohn's Disease
and ulcerative colitis, and medical education

Lurie Center for Autism



ANDY ZIMMERMAN, MD

MD degree: Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Residency: C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, University of Michigan Hospitals, Pediatrics; Johns Hopkins Hospital, Neurology

Board certification/s: Pediatrics; Psychiatry and Neurology, with special competence in Child Neurology

Clinical interests: Autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities, neuro-developmental disorders, and pediatric neurology

Neurology



CATHERINE CHU-SHORE, MD

MD degree: Harvard Medical School

Residency: Partners Neurology Program, Boston, MA; Massachusetts General Hospital, Pediatric Neurology

Fellowship/s: Massachusetts General Hospital, Tuberos Sclerosis Research; Massachusetts General Hospital, Neurophysiology and Pediatric Epilepsy

Clinical interests: General child neurology, pediatric epilepsy, epileptic encephalopathies (such as infantile spasms, electrographic status epilepticus of sleep, Landau-Kleffner syndrome), and neurophysiology/EEG

Neurosurgery



ANN-CHRISTINE DUHAIME, MD

Pediatric Neurosurgery; Director, Neurosurgical Trauma and Intensive Care

MD degree: University of Pennsylvania

Residency: University of Pennsylvania, Neurosurgery

Fellowship/s: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Pediatric Neurosurgery

Board certification/s: Neurological Surgery, Pediatric Neurological Surgery

Clinical interests: Brain and spine tumors, pediatric neurosurgery, functional neurosurgery including pediatric epilepsy, spasticity and movement disorders, craniofacial surgery (including craniosynostosis), hydrocephalus and brain cysts, congenital spine and brain malformations including tethered cord and Chiari malformations

Pulmonary, Sleep and Allergy



PERDITA PERMAUL, MD

MD degree: Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Residency: New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center

Fellowship/s: Children's Hospital Boston, Allergy/Immunology

Board certification/s: Pediatrics; Allergy and Immunology

Clinical interests: Allergic rhinitis, asthma, atopic dermatitis, eosinophilic disorders, food allergy, and immunodeficiency

Anesthesia



CHRISTINE MAI, MD

MD degree: Boston University School of Medicine

Residency: Boston University Medical Center

Fellowship/s: Johns Hopkins Hospital

Board certification/s: Anesthesiology

Clinical interests: Historical aspects of anesthesia, pediatric anesthesia, history of pediatric anesthesia

Hematology and Oncology



JESSICA SACHS, MD

MD degree: Washington University School of Medicine

Residency: Tufts-New England Medical Center, Pediatrics

Fellowship/s: Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Children's Hospital, Pediatric Hematology and Oncology

Board certification/s: Pediatric Hematology and Oncology; Pediatrics

Clinical interests: General hematology and oncology and stem cell transplantation

CME Opportunities

To register for any of these courses, visit www.massgeneralforchildren.org/CME

Save the Date:

**REACH Symposium:
Research, Education, and
Awareness for Children with
Hirschsprung's disease**

A multidisciplinary symposium highlighting important and up-to-date clinical and scientific topics in Hirschsprung's disease

MAY 16, 2011

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location:

O'Keeffe Auditorium at
Massachusetts General Hospital

Registration:

www.massgeneralforchildren.org/reach

**Update in Pediatric Airway,
Voice, and Swallowing Disorders:
Pediatric Voice Disorders**

MAY 21-22, 2011

Location:

Meltzer Auditorium
MEEI, 243 Charles Street, Boston, MA

Director:

Christopher J. Hartnick, MD

**Frontiers in Pediatric
Gastroenterology**

JUNE 10, 2011

7:30 a.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Location:

Simches Research Building
Massachusetts General Hospital
185 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02114

Registration:

www.cme.hms.harvard.edu/courses/pediatricGI

www.massgeneralforchildren.org

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