The Pediatric Emergency Department at MassGeneral Hospital for Children

The pediatric emergency department at MassGeneral Hospital for Children is specially designed from a pediatric perspective to provide exceptional, child-focused care to our patients, as well as support and guidance to their families.

Our larger space is separate from the adult emergency department. It is staffed by physicians, nurses and other staff trained in pediatric emergency medicine who provide high-quality and developmentally-appropriate care for your child while ensuring you are involved in every step of the way.

CHILD- AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY FEATURES

The pediatric emergency department has special features to help make your child’s visit as smooth and stress-free as possible, including:

- Six private, child-friendly rooms, including one room specifically designed for suspected or diagnosed infectious disease
- Exam rooms that can accommodate a child and family members if both need emergency care at the same time
- An evaluation area for minor ailments so we can care for patients more efficiently
- A colorful waiting area with tablets and age-appropriate toys
- Interactive LED lights above every bed to help soothe patients while they receive care
- Televisions and DVD controls in every room
- Relaxing interactive lights above every bed to soothe children while they receive care

Your child’s comfort and symptoms are very important to us!

Our first priority is to care for patients whose lives are at risk. We know you have been to another hospital. That hospital has contacted us, so we are expecting you and your child. We work as quickly as we can to safely care for all patients and to shorten your waiting time.

Top: Ari Cohen, MD, chief of the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at MassGeneral Hospital for Children, in the waiting area. Bottom: The central charting area in the pediatric emergency department.
EXPERT SERVICES AND FACILITIES
The pediatric emergency department continues to provide a full breadth of services and resources, including:
- Access to world-class resources at Massachusetts General Hospital and MassGeneral Hospital for Children, including pediatric surgery and intensive care units
- Child Life Specialists who help your child and family navigate the hospital experience through play and age-appropriate education about treatments, procedures or exams
- On-site radiology and fluoroscopy, or X-rays on video, that deliver low doses of radiation adjusted for your child’s age
- 24-hour psychiatric coverage
- Option for conscious sedation available (when medically appropriate) to help relieve pain and relax your child

The pediatric emergency department is verified by the American College of Surgeons as a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center and a Level 1 Pediatric Burn Center, the highest trauma center designation.

Each year, we treat more than 14,000 children.

OUR TRIAGE SYSTEM
When you arrive, a triage nurse reviews your child’s symptoms, medical history and vital signs. Then, the triage nurse will determine when your child can be seen by one of our doctors trained in pediatric emergency medicine.

Depending on the nature of a child’s condition or symptoms, he or she might not always be seen in the order of their arrival:
- If your child has a life-threatening condition, he or she will be evaluated right away.
- If your child’s condition is not life-threatening, he or she will be evaluated as soon as possible.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Who will be caring for my child?
There will be many staff members on your child’s care team, including registered nurses and nurses and doctors trained in pediatric emergency medicine. Your child might also see a nurse practitioner, a medical assistant or a Child Life specialist. Registration staff will also ask you for information while you and your child are in the screening area. They might ask you for detailed information about your child’s primary care physician or your health insurance.

Why am I being asked the same questions over and over again?
We ask you the same questions to make sure your child receives the most appropriate evaluation possible and to make sure you and your child stay safe. Initial registration is directed toward getting your child into the system as soon as possible. We might ask you for more information about your child later.

Can my child have visitors?
Yes. Please have visitors check in at the information desk to get a visitor’s pass.

Will I be charged for this visit?
We see all patients whether they can pay or not. If you have insurance, please understand that every plan is different. Co-pays or charges are determined by your individual health plan. Contact your insurance provider if you have other questions.

If needed, where can I validate my parking?
Patients and visitors will receive discounted parking without validation. Please show your discharge papers or visitor’s pass to the parking attendants.

Can I use my cell phone?
Yes, in most areas. Please be sensitive to other patients and staff when making calls. We also have land line phones if you need to use them.