Welcome to the Pediatric Kidney Stone Program at MassGeneral Hospital for Children (MGHfC). The program combines the expertise of pediatric nephrologists and pediatric urologists, whose sole focus is treating kidney stones. Our providers offer multidisciplinary, comprehensive and family-centered care for children of all ages.

ABOUT THE PEDIATRIC KIDNEY STONE PROGRAM
In the past, kidney stones used to be a disease in grown-ups. Now, they’re occurring more frequently in children as well. Children who have kidney stones are more likely to have future kidney stones or have underlying metabolism issues. Recurring kidney stones can cause kidney damage or infection.

Kidneys help to filter blood and metabolism byproducts, like calcium or uric acid, through urine. Usually, these byproducts leave the body through urine, but, sometimes they combine and form kidney stones. When kidney stones block ureters (the urine-draining tube from the kidney), urine cannot flow out. The clogged ureter builds pressure in the kidney, which causes kidney pain (renal colic), nausea, vomiting or blood in the urine.

At the Pediatric Kidney Stone Program, we specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of kidney stones in children of all ages, from infants and children to teenagers and young adults. We know that children’s needs are different from adults’ needs, so we work with primary care providers and specialists to create personalized care plans for every child. Families know their children best, so we involve the family in each step of a child’s care plan. For young adults, we facilitate a seamless transition from pediatric to adult care to ensure ongoing care for recurring kidney stones.

We also work closely with urologic surgeons, when needed. This close collaboration means children have shorter wait times and do not have prolonged pain and discomfort from a temporary stent. Working together with surgeons also means less radiation exposure and less of a burden from kidney stones.

Appointments 888-644-3248

STAFF
Pediatric Nephrology
Harald Jueppner, MD - Chief
Julie R. Ingelfinger, MD
Elahna Paul, MD, PhD
Amita Sharma, MD - Clinical Director
Kristen Lambert, RN

Pediatric Urology
Jack Elder, MD - Chief
Brian Eisner, MD - Program Co-Director
Dianne Sacco, MD - Program Co-Director
Jaclyn McGowan, NP
OUR SERVICES
Our treatments focus on medical expulsive therapy (MET) or surgery. MET helps control pain and nausea, while medications make stones easier to pass in urine. We do surgery based on the size, location and type of the kidney stone and how much the kidney stone is blocking ureters (urine-draining tubes).

We offer the following services for kidney stones:

- Comprehensive care that helps prevent future kidney stones and that involves each child’s family and primary care provider
- Fast, state-of-the-art surgery techniques, including:
  - Noninvasive shockwave therapy to shrink kidney stones
  - Minimally invasive laser technology
  - Robot-assisted laparoscopic pyleolithotomy
- Appointments with specialists from the Pediatric Bone and Mineral Metabolism Disorders Clinic, if needed, for recurring kidney stones caused by metabolic or genetic diseases

SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS
Call the Access and New Appointment Center at 888-644-3248 to schedule appointments at our Boston location (pictured below):

- MassGeneral Hospital for Children
  55 Fruit Street, Yawkey building, Suite 6C
  Boston, MA 02114

HELPFUL RESOURCES
Here are some helpful resources where you can learn more about kidney stones in children:

- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
  www.niddk.nih.gov
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
  www.healthychildren.org
- Harvard Health Blog
  www.health.harvard.edu

All images courtesy of Mass General Marketing.