

# INPATIENT TEAM MEMBERS

## **Pediatricians**

A doctor who treats children ages birth through generally 18 years of age. Our pediatricians oversee your child's general medical care. They communicate with your child's primary care physician and any specialty physicians involved in your child's condition.

## **Pediatric Physiatrists**

A physiatrist is a doctor who specializes in rehabilitation medicine. Our physiatrist works closely with the rehabilitation team to direct care specific to your child's needs. They will also coordinate care with the hospital that sent you to Weisman Children's.

## **Pediatric Pulmonologists**

A doctor who specializes in taking care of children with respiratory and breathing issues. Our pulmonologists direct the portion of care that has to do with breathing and if your child has a tracheostomy and/or ventilator.

## **Nurses**

Nurses focus on the care of individuals, families, and communities so they may attain, maintain, or recover optimal health and quality of life. At Weisman Children's, your child is assigned a primary nurse each day who is responsible for performing nursing care as well as assisting in achieving your child's unique goals related to rehab or respiratory care.

## **Psychologists**

Psychologists have the professional training and clinical skills to help people learn to cope more effectively with life issues and mental health problems. They work to assist your child and family cope with the social, emotional and behavioral impact of their injury or illness. Psychology services will address a range of topics including: managing stress, peer relationships, social adjustment, problem solving, and internal relationships within your family.

## **Physical Therapists**

Physical therapists diagnose and treat our patients with medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives. Whether helping an infant learn to move or a teen regain function following an accident, our therapists provide activities to help your child progress with movement. Developmentally they look at how babies and children of all ages move and as the child grows they work on coordination on such things as running, jumping and skipping.

## **Occupational Therapists**

Occupational therapists help patients participate in the activities they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities. Our therapists help your child participate in daily life routines such as dressing, feeding, school, home tasks and community activities. Occupational therapists screen for visual issues and provide exercises to assist as well as how vision may be affecting balance. They look at development, particularly of the arms and hands and how these work together with the eyes to coordinate movement. They focus on your child's sensory system and how disturbances in that system affect your child's ability to function in a variety of settings.

## **Speech Language Pathologists**

Our speech language pathologists work to improve our patient's communication and oral(mouth) function. They enhance receptive and expressive language skills, voice, and cognition (thinking) skills that may have been affected by injury or other neurological disorders. Our clinicians also provide dysphagia (feeding and swallowing difficulties) services in order to return patients to their prior diet level or assist infants and their families to create a positive feeding experience for increased safety and efficiency.

## **Respiratory Therapists**

Our respiratory therapist are specialty trained to work with and manage children with breathing or pulmonary issues. This may include the use of equipment, medications and/or chest therapy. Respiratory therapists are the staff who manage children with tracheostomies and ventilators or children who require oxygen or nebulizer treatments.

## **Therapeutic Recreation and Child Life Specialists**

Our therapeutic recreation specialists work with your child to address goals through play, recreation and psychosocial support. Potential areas of treatment may include adjustment to a hospital environment, treatment support, community re-entry, leisure education, skill building, developmental and medical play. Your recreational therapist and child life specialist will talk with you about your feelings regarding the changes that have occurred based on your child's illness or accident. They will plan outings together so that your child can practice what they learned in the hospital. In the infant program, they will work you and your child to provide education and support on development, caregiver/child bonding, calming techniques, reading your baby's signs and environmental stimulation.

## **Registered Dietitian Nutritionists**

A dietitian is a professional who helps develop a diet that is appropriate for a medical condition or maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Our nutritionists work with you and your child on healthy meal selections across our inpatient programs. They are an integral team member in our diabetes program to help your child learn about nutrition and the critical part in plays in managing their diabetes. In our infant feeding program, our dietitians work closely with the caregiver to help the babies with weight gain.

## **Certified Diabetes Educator**

Our Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) is a professional with knowledge of and experience in diabetes management and will work with you and your child on understanding diabetes as it relates specifically to your child and how to help manage the day to day and long term issues surrounding this condition.

## **Social Workers**

Social workers help to promote the psycho-social well-being of the patients and families here at Weisman. They help to ensure that each patient and family is provided with the care and services that are needed. Our social workers provide supportive counseling, education, referrals to valuable community resources and advocacy to ensure a safe transition back into the community.

## **Care Coordinators**

Our care coordinators help ensure that your team of healthcare professionals work together towards meeting you or your child's healthcare needs. They will advocate on your behalf to obtain needed services and equipment. They will assist you in transitioning from your stay at Weisman Children's to your home.

