

The Pediatric Surgery department at Valley Children's specializes in the repair of birth defects and acquired conditions in infants, children and adolescents. Surgeons perform about 3,500 pediatric surgeries a year and more than 200 different surgical procedures, some common and others rare.

Conditions treated include:

- Pectus deformities (excavatum and carinatum)
- Congenital anomalies requiring surgery (gastroschisis, diaphragmatic hernia, atresia)
- Hernias
- Lung and chest masses, cysts
- Blood disorders requiring splenectomy
- Hepatobiliary disease (biliary atresia, choledochal cyst, gallbladder disease, tumors)
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease, feeding disorders requiring gastrostomy
- Anorectal and colon malformation (Hirschsprung's disease, imperforate anus, fecal incontinence)
- Head and neck masses, lumps and bumps
- Tumors (neck, chest, abdomen, endocrine)

Procedures are performed on an inpatient, outpatient and emergency basis. A high volume of both inpatient and surgical cases, combined with diverse training from national centers of excellence, give our surgeons a level of experience not found elsewhere in our region. Our physicians' expertise means a lot to our patients and their families. Often our patients experience shorter lengths of stay and better outcomes. Whenever possible our surgeons use less invasive surgical techniques (i.e., laparoscopies with small incisions), adopting nationwide best practices and providing compassionate care through multidisciplinary teams that have broad experience with children. We also offer minimal blood loss techniques whenever appropriate. General pediatric surgeons work closely with the Hospital's subspecialists and subspecialty surgeons.

Access Center

24/7 access for referring physicians
(866) 353-KIDS (5437)

Outpatient Referral

Referral forms online at valleychildrens.org/refer
FAX: (559) 353-8888

Pediatric Surgery Office Numbers

Main: (559) 353-7290
FAX: (559) 353-7286
Physician Line: (559) 353-7289

Physician Liason

(559) 353-7229

Medical Staff

Michael Allshouse, DO
Medical Director

Karen Cartwright, MD
Sara Chang, MD
Adam Gorra, MD

Stephanie Jones, DO
Douglas Tamura, MD

A pediatric surgeon has completed a five-year residency in general surgery, plus a two-year fellowship in pediatric surgery, and is certified by the American Board of Surgery in both general and pediatric surgery.

The following patients should be referred to a pediatric surgeon:

Infants and children with perforated appendicitis should be cared for by a pediatric surgeon. If a non-pediatric surgeon makes the diagnosis or suspects the diagnosis of perforated appendicitis in a child, the child should be transferred to the care of a pediatric surgeon.

Infants, children, and adolescents with solid malignancies should be cared for from the outset by a pediatric surgeon or pediatric surgical specialist and a pediatric medical cancer specialist.

Minimally invasive procedures (e.g., laparoscopy, thoracoscopy) in infants and children should be performed by a pediatric surgeon trained in these techniques.

Infants and children with medical conditions that increase operative risk (e.g., congenital heart disease) who must undergo a common surgical procedure (e.g., hernia repair) should be cared for by a pediatric surgeon.

Condition	Pre-referral Work-up	When to Refer
Appendicitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC • CRP 	Send to Emergency Department as soon as possible
Dermoid Cyst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History and physical • If there is a concern of deep involvement on the face, orbit or scalp, CT or other imaging 	<p>If it becomes painful, inflamed, changes in color or size or becomes a cosmetic issue</p> <p>If located on face, refer to Plastic Surgery</p>
Gallstones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History and physical examination • Ultrasound/HIDA w/ GB PDSC • Liver function studies 	Positive physical findings or scan
GER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H2 blocker • PPI • UGI, swallow study, pH probe study, endoscopy 	Secondary referral after Gastroenterology consult
Umbilical Hernia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History and physical 	<p>If persistent in a child > 4 years old or in a younger child with a large (>2cm) defect or proboscis type hernia</p> <p>Refer to Emergency Department if incarceration is suspected</p>
Epigastric Hernia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History and physical 	Positive physical findings

Condition	Pre-referral Work-up	When to Refer
Inguinal Hernia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical 	<p>Refer to Emergency Department if incarceration is suspected</p> <p>Urgent referral if child is < 6 months old</p> <p>Routine referral if child is > 6 months old</p>
Communicating Hydrocele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical 	Treat as inguinal hernia using above guidelines
Hydrocele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical 	Routine referral to surgery if persisting beyond 1 year of age
Pectus Carinatum/Excavatum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical R/O connective tissue or genetic disorder (e.g., Marfan's syndrome) CT / PFT / ECHO 	<p>If patient is in distress or as indicated by imaging</p> <p>Upon family request</p> <p>Pre-adolescence</p>
Perirectal/Perianal Abscess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical 	Refer if patient experiences recurrent episodes or persistent drainage
Pyloric Stenosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical Serum electrolytes Ultrasound 	Send to Emergency Department as soon as possible
Sacroccygeal Pilonidal Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical 	Refer if symptomatic
Cryptorchidism or Undescended Testes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical Ultrasound 	Positive physical findings or scan

Condition	Pre-referral Work-up	When to Refer
Prenatal Anomaly - Fetal Diagnosis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abdominal wall defect Intestinal obstruction Diaphragmatic defects Chest mass Conjoined twins Choledoeal cyst or biliary disorders Oranan cysts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maternal - Fetal perinatal evaluation and high resolution fetal ultrasound Amniocentesis results or karyotype, if known 	Positive physical findings or scan
Infant Ovarian Cyst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical Abdominal and pelvic ultrasounds 	Positive physical findings or scan
Lymphadenopathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical (including antibiotic history) PPD or other skin testing 	Positive physical findings or scan
Fecal Incontinence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical (including prior surgical intervention) 	Positive finding for anorectal malformation (imperforate anus) or Hirschsprung's disease Approaching school age and still in diapers during the day
Skin and Soft Tissue Masses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dermoid / sebaceous cyst Pilomatrixoma Lipoma Vascular malformation (not on face) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical (including antibiotic history) Photographs if vascular lesion 	Positive physical findings Suspected malignancy Vascular lesion
Head and Neck Masses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brachial cleft anomaly Thyroglossal duct cyst 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and physical 	Positive physical finding

Valley Children's contracts with the following health plans for hospital and physician services.*

If you have questions, please call us at **(559) 353-7238** to speak with a contracting representative.

Insurance Plans*

Aetna EPO / HMO / PPO

AllCare IPA

Bakersfield Family Medical Center / Heritage Physician Network

Blue Cross HMO / Prudent Buyer PPO / Healthy Families EPO

Blue Cross Medi-Cal / Healthy Families HMO

Blue Shield HMO / PPO / Healthy Families

Capp Care (Beachstreet)

Catholic Healthcare West-Bakersfield

CCS – California Children's Services

Central California Alliance for Health

Central Valley Medical Group CVMG

Choice Care

Cigna / Greatwest

Delano Regional Medical Group

EHS IPA (Blue Cross Managed Medi-Cal Patients / Healthy Families)

Emmanuel Employee Benefit Plan

First Health / CCN

Foundation HealthCare Administrators / California Foundation for Medical Care

GemCare IPA/ Managed Care Systems

Health Net HMO / PPO / Healthy Families / Healthy Kids

Health Net Medi-Cal / CalViva

Health Plan San Joaquin Medi-Cal / Healthy Families

Hill Physician Medical Group

Interplan

Kaiser HMO / Healthy Families / Medi-Cal

Kern Health Systems Medi-Cal / Healthy Families

Key / Mosaic Medical Group IPA

LaSalle IPA (Blue Cross Managed Medi-Cal)

Medicare

MediCal – California State

MedCore Medical Group

Multiplan / PHCS

Sante IPA

Sutter Gould Medical Foundation

Sutter Hospital System (Modesto Memorial, Memorial Los Banos, Sutter Tracy)

TriWest (Formally TRICARE / CHAMPUS)

United HealthCare / PacifiCare

Universal Care

*Plans may be subject to change.