



Central California Pediatrics

MARCH 2025

Specialty information for physicians who treat children and expectant mothers.



Valley Children's Continued Work on Access to Care

Dave Hodge, Jr., MBA

Valley Children's Vice President, Medical Group & Ancillary Services

Improving our ability to see kids quickly continues to be a top priority for our organization, and ensuring that our referring physicians have ready access to the pediatric specialties and diagnostic studies they require to take care of their patients and families is one of the most important areas of continued focus for Valley Children's.

Over the last year, work and efforts have been made to ensure this timely access and improve processes for patient referrals.

- From 2023 to 2025, Valley Children's has improved our overall access to outpatient pediatric specialties by 13%, making huge improvements in specific specialties:
 - Cardiology: 39% improvement
 - Endocrinology: 51% improvement
 - Gastroenterology: 53% improvement
 - Neurosurgery: 29% improvement
- Throughout the last year, we have hired additional physicians in 10 different specialties and continue to successfully recruit more pediatric specialists to the Central Valley. We have also added Nurse Practitioners and Physician's Assistants in key areas to assist in continuing management of our patients. We continue to focus on initiatives in Pulmonology, Neurology, Genetics and other specialties and anticipate seeing huge improvements over the coming year.
- We launched our Care Coordination Service, a new service allowing any referring hospital, physician or family to schedule multiple appointments with one phone call. This ensures patient visits to Valley Children's Hospital are as efficient as possible, minimizing travel and maximizing convenience. After submitting referrals, referring teams simply need to email the Care Coordination Team at Carecoordination@valleychildrens.org with the patient's name, caregiver's name and contact information or call (559) 353-8800 and select option 1. From there, one of our care team members reach out to arrange appointments in a way that best suits the family's schedule.
- We have also focused on ensuring timely access to our Imaging and Therapy/Diagnostic Services by:
 - Adding MRI and ultrasound capacity to improve availability and decrease wait times for needed studies.
 - Adding support in our Physical Therapy, Speech and Outpatient Therapy departments allowing therapists to work through waiting evaluations and offer more timely access.
 - Added Saturday clinics for Audiology studies to work through waiting requests and offer timely access.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

These initiatives reflect Valley Children's unwavering commitment to ensuring children receive the specialized care they need as quickly and efficiently as possible by ensuring providers can quickly and easily have their patients seen. By expanding provider availability, enhancing diagnostic services and streamlining the referral process, we are making significant strides in improving access to care for families across the Central Valley. As we continue to build on this progress, we remain dedicated to finding innovative solutions that prioritize convenience, reduce wait times and ultimately support the health and well-being of the children we serve.

Medical Staff News

The following pediatric specialists recently joined Valley Children's:

Anesthesiology

Renu Nair, DO
Hyun Su Kim, MD

Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics

Navjot K. Sidhu, MD

Emergency Medicine

Kelly Bailey, MD
Dain Landholm, MD
Ravi Uppal, MD

ENT

Steven Engebretsen, MD

Gastroenterology

Daniel Orellana, MD

Hospitalist

Sabita Bhatta, MD
Bhavi Devireddy, MD
Danielle Jones, MD

Hospitalist, Chief Resident

Mariel Marquez, MD

Maternal Fetal Medicine

Danielle Esters, MD
Ghilain Hardy, MD
Lynsa Nguyen, MD

Hospitalist, Chief Resident

Mariel Marquez, MD

Neonatology

Vikash Agrawal, MD
Navneet Singh, MD
Lida Zeinali, MD

Neurology

Dinesh Lulla, MD

Neuro-oncology

Kanyalakshmi Ayyanar, MD

OB/GYN

Minh Tang, MD

Pediatric Surgery

Krista Lai, MD

Primary Care

Michael Abdelmisseh, MD
Venkata Shushma Chamarthi, MD
Samantha MacLeod, MD
Abha Sharma, MD
Jose Valencia Torres, MD

Rehab Medicine

David Tomajan, MD