University of Florida physicians provide a full spectrum of pediatric specialty services at UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital, ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the Top 50 pediatric hospitals in the country.

We care for patients from throughout Florida and the United States at UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital, the only quaternary-care academic pediatric center in North Central Florida. UF physicians offer some of the most specialized pediatric programs for the diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of complex conditions.

**Pediatric Intensive Care Unit**

The first Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Florida was established in 1967 at what is now UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital. The current 24-bed medical-surgical PICU was renovated in 2014 and features a Ronald McDonald family lounge as well as a family waiting area that is shared with the pediatric cardiac intensive care unit. The pediatric intensivists at UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital treat patients from birth to 21 years old.

The PICU supports a Level 1 pediatric trauma center and all pediatric medical and surgical subspecialties. Providing our patients the latest in advanced medical technology, the unit features an active extracorporeal membrane oxygenation program as well as continuous renal replacement therapies, high-frequency ventilation and inhaled nitric oxide.

**Medical subspecialties include:**

- Cardiology
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- Genetics
- Hematology/oncology
- Infectious disease
- Nephrology
- Neurology
- Pulmonology
- Rheumatology

**Surgical subspecialties include:**

- Congenital/pediatric cardiac surgery
- General pediatric surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Orthopaedics
- Otolaryngology
- Transplant services: heart, lung, liver and kidney
- Trauma services

**Last year’s pediatric patients:**

1,167 PICU patients

930 NICU patients

333 PCICU patients

FY20
As the first in Florida to establish a pediatric heart transplant program, UF Health and the UF Health Congenital Heart Center also have been the first in the state to perform the following procedures:

- 1986: Pediatric heart transplant
- 1993: Infant heart transplant
- 1994: Pediatric heart/kidney transplant
- 1996: Pediatric lung transplant
- 1999: Pediatric heart/lung transplant
- 2002: Double-lung transplant in youngest infant
- 2006: Berlin Heart® implant as bridge to transplant (CHC contributed to data collection that resulted in FDA approval in 2011)
- 2013: Heart/lung transplant in youngest infant
- 2013: SynCardia® temporary Total Artificial Heart implant
- 2014: SynCardia® temporary Total Artificial Heart implant with portable Freedom® drive in youngest patient in the world
- 2015: Introduction of 3D printing for patients with complex congenital heart disease
- 2017: Recognized as the leading transplant program in the nation in terms of low mortality rates

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
UF Health Shands Children's Hospital NICU physicians provide quaternary care to neonates throughout North Central Florida, Florida's Panhandle and surrounding areas of Georgia. The unit serves as a destination for specialized medical and surgical services, such as hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy and complex congenital heart diseases, and is nationally renowned for its physician expertise for treating congenital diaphragmatic hernia.

Established in the 1970s, UF Health Shands Children's Hospital's current Level 4 NICU was built in 1984 and renovated and expanded in 2016 and 2017 to its current 72-bed capacity. The NICU is a member of the state of Florida Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Centers.

Congenital Heart Center Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
Ranked No. 12 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top pediatric cardiology and heart surgery programs in the country, the UF Health Congenital Heart Center has the most complex case mix of all Florida congenital heart programs, caring for some of the sickest children in Florida and from throughout the southeastern United States and Puerto Rico.

Our team of cardiovascular surgeons, who are recognized for their expertise, perform almost 300 congenital heart operations each year at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital on patients ranging in age from birth through adulthood.

The state-of-the-art pediatric cardiac intensive care unit is 18,000 square feet and has 23 beds. The unit, with family-centered patient rooms, features ceiling-mounted patient-lifting systems, exam lights and advanced technologies.