Complex Asthma Care

The Asthma Complex Care Center at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center provides a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of children with complex and difficult to treat asthma. We have specific expertise in treating complex asthma in children with comorbidities and underlying conditions.

HOW WE’RE DIFFERENT

- The Asthma Complex Care Center is one of few pediatric asthma-focused programs in the country.
- Our program allows outpatients to spend up to eight hours in a patient unit in order to complete testing, education and training that would otherwise take several trips back to the hospital to accomplish. It combines the intensity of an inpatient hospital stay with the cost savings of outpatient treatment.
- Our specialists come together from different disciplines including otolaryngologists, pulmonologists, allergists, gastroenterologists, sleep and adherence specialists, bronchoscopists and nutritionists to discuss biological, social and environmental factors influencing a patient’s complex asthma.
- Our specialists are dedicated to providing individualized, family-centered care and meet on a weekly basis to develop and discuss a care plan for each patient.

CONDITIONS TREATED

The Asthma Complex Care Center focuses on children with difficult to treat asthma who are prone to sleep difficulty, eczema, esophageal esophagitis, seasonal allergies and food allergies.

We are a highly specialized, comprehensive program in which patients and their families participate in consultations, disease management and therapeutic activities. The patient’s care and treatment is done within the Asthma Complex Care Center to make the patient experience as efficient, convenient and satisfying as possible.
TREATMENT TEAM
Carolyn M. Kercsmar, MD  
Co-Director, Division of Pulmonary Medicine; Director, Asthma Complex Care Center
Theresa W. Guilbert, MD, MS  
Associate Director, Asthma Center
Karen M. McDowell, MD  
Director, Pulmonary Function Lab
Sandy Durrani, MD  
Assistant Professor, Division of Allergy & Immunology
Valerie A. Sackenheim, RN II, AE-C
Shannon Deidesheimer, BSN, RN, AE-C

TREATMENT APPROACH
Each patient is evaluated and treated using an intensive integrated visit over a period of one to two days including diagnostic testing, full evaluation and training on medications, device use and home care. The types of tests a patient may undergo are:

- Spirometry
- Full lung function testing
- Infant pulmonary function testing
- Inhalation challenge testing
- Exercise tests
- Exhaled nitric oxide testing
- Allergy skin testing
- Food challenge testing
- X-rays and CT scans
- Bronchoscopy
- Impedance probe

RESEARCH TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE
Our Asthma Complex Care Center is an integral partner with the Asthma Research Division at Cincinnati Children’s. These combined programs focus on designing and conducting clinical, translational and basic research on identifying genetic and biologic markers of asthma and dissecting their mechanistic bases.

The Asthma Research Division is part of a six hospital group that was awarded a grant to develop and lead an asthma research study to analyze phenotypic, demographic, treatment and outcome data to look for differences between patients, treatments and site pathways to see what factors impact reutilization and length of hospital stay for asthmatics.

For patient referrals to the Asthma Complex Care Center contact us at 513-636-6771.

For urgent issues, or to speak with the specialist on call 24/7, call the Physician Priority Link at 1-888-987-7997.