Watch for the Opening of Chicago’s Newest Pediatric Hospital

The University of Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital is an exciting all-new children’s hospital fully attuned to the most innovative era in pediatric medicine. A state-of-the-art facility, the Children’s Hospital is designed to fully support the many advances in pediatric medicine today and in the future. From top to bottom, this remarkable structure will accommodate and enhance new technologies, interrelationships among medical staff as they provide care for patients, and interrelationships between patients and their families as they cope with illness.

Treating the Most Complex Conditions

Once housed in the technologically advanced Comer Children’s Hospital, outstanding specialists from virtually every area of kids’ medicine will be even better able to provide exceptional care for children from around the corner…and around the globe. As it is, children with illnesses and injuries classified as “impossible to treat” at other institutions have come to our current Children’s Hospital, been treated successfully and returned home to their families and friends.

Why Kids Will Like the New Hospital

Comer is a hospital designed to help kids feel “at home” with just the right mix of the familiar, the new and the exciting. The large private rooms will have kid-friendly décors and flat-screen TV/computers where kids can access child-appropriate sites on the Internet; send and receive e-mail; watch TV; listen to music; and view movies on demand.

Providing the Advantages of Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)

Pediatric specialists in general surgery, neurosurgery and cardiac surgery are leading the way in the development and use of minimally invasive surgery. They are the only pediatric surgeons in the Chicago metropolitan area and among the few pediatric surgeons nationwide routinely using MIS procedures for children. Because MIS uses much smaller incisions than traditional surgery, it results in faster recovery with less pain, shorter hospital stays and earlier return to normal activities.

Providing the Advantages of an Interdisciplinary Approach

The Children’s Hospital approach to patient care is interdisciplinary: Our patients benefit from the expertise and knowledge of multiple specialists. These experts, many of them world renowned, meet on a regular basis to review their patients’ status and identify the most effective treatment options. For example, a patient with epilepsy benefits from the unique skills of an entire team of experts in the fields of pediatric neurology, pediatric neurosurgery, pediatric nursing, social work, pediatric neuropsychiatry, pediatric neurogenetics, radiology and pediatric rehabilitation.

Kids will be able to order food they like from a menu when they are hungry, and food will be promptly delivered room-service style. A refrigerator in every room will let kids and families keep their own food and snacks. Everyone on the staff is a kid-expert -- from the world-renowned specialists who care for the children to the environmental service workers who clean the kids’ rooms. The entire interdisciplinary team, including physicians, nurses and other health care professionals, tends to the medical aspects of care for our children and their families while also caring for their emotional, psychological and spiritual needs. These professionals help children and their families learn about the health care environment and overcome fears related to being in the hospital.

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Why Families Will Like the New Hospital

The new Comer Children’s Hospital is designed to provide families with the comforts of home while they remain close to their hospitalized child. Bedside admitting and financial counseling will greatly simplify the process of getting the sick child into Comer. There will be sleeping accommodations both inside and outside of children’s rooms, a self-service laundry and a family kitchen. The Family Learning Center on the main floor, will house computers with Internet access, books, videos, brochures and other resources for learning about childhood health and illnesses. A Children’s Library will also be available in the Learning Center.

UCAN

The University of Chicago Aeromedical Network (UCAN) provides helicopter and ground transport to the University of Chicago Hospitals, including the Children’s Hospital, for critically ill or injured patients within a 200-mile radius covering much of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. UCAN completes more than 1,000 transports yearly, primarily from non-tertiary hospitals. UCAN is one of the few fully equipped air medical services in the United States that routinely includes a flight physician and nurse.

The New Hospital Will Be Fully Attuned To The Most Innovative Era In Pediatric Medicine

Thanks to the support of Gary and Frances Comer and other generous donors, the University of Chicago Comer Children’s Hospital will be among those institutions leading the charge in the midst of the most progressive, most ground-breaking time ever in pediatric medicine and surgery. From dream to concrete reality, the new Comer Children’s Hospital is a giant leap forward for children in Chicago -- and around the world.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call us at 1-888-UCH-0200. Visit us at www.ucch.org.