The Heart Center
Heart Failure and Transplant Program
Turning heart failure into heart function

When your child is experiencing heart problems and regular treatments aren’t working, it can be extremely scary. You may feel like you are out of options – but you’re not. The Heart Failure Program at Children’s Health℠ can help. In fact, we prefer to think of our program as specializing in heart function, because that’s what we strive to do for your child.

As the only pediatric transplant and ventricular assist device (VAD) facility in North Texas, we offer a full range of care. From monitoring your child’s heart to providing mechanical assistance to performing transplant surgery, our team of internationally renowned cardiothoracic surgeons and cardiologists will select the best treatment plan for your child’s specific needs.

It’s our mission to make life better for children. By providing high quality, safe, compassionate care, we’re living up to our promise. There’s simply no better feeling than seeing your child leave the hospital both healthy and happy.
Supporting you and your family through heart failure

We understand many children going through heart failure have complex needs. That’s why we have conveniently located Heart Failure Clinics in Dallas and Plano. Our highly trained staff will take care of your child during every stage of treatment.

We’ll be by your side® through it all from monitoring your child’s heart to prescribing medications to providing educational material and resources for your entire family. We know this can be an extremely stressful time, and we have a large support team to help.

Providing the most advanced mechanical heart assistance

If your child is in severe heart failure, a mechanical pump (MCS) or VAD can be implanted. These devices can help keep your child safe before transplant surgery or in some cases, allow your child’s heart to recover.

There are many types of devices available, and our team of experts will determine the right device to fit your child’s specific needs. As the only pediatric VAD program in North Texas, we offer a comprehensive range of mechanical devices including:

• Extracorporeal Circulatory Mechanical Support (ECMO)
• Berlin Heart® EXCOR Pediatric Ventricular Assist Device
• Thoratec PediMag and CentriMag
• HeartWare HVAD® System
• Impella® 2.5 System
• SynCardia Total Artificial Heart

After your child receives the device, a dedicated specialist will work one-on-one with your child to ensure continuity of care, manage blood thinning therapies and troubleshoot any issues. This way your child receives the highest-quality care and best-possible outcome.
Performing successful heart transplants

When the most advanced medical therapies and mechanical support fail to relieve symptoms and improve the quality of life, your child may be suitable for a heart transplant. Although this is considered the most advanced form of heart failure treatment, you can rest assured your child is in good hands.

As one of the largest heart transplant centers in the country, Children’s Health has successfully treated more than 230 children, giving them new, healthy hearts. And we can do the same for your child, using state-of-the-art transplant services including heart transplant surgery and re-transplantation surgery.

During your child’s carefully coordinated operation, our team of renowned cardiothoracic surgeons will replace your child’s heart with a healthy one. After surgery, your child will be monitored at one of our cardiology clinics by the heart transplant team. This protects your child from possible infections and complications, leading to higher success rates.
Getting to know your team

From the surgeons and cardiologists to our nurse practitioners and dietitians, our extensive team of experts provides individualized care for every patient. Using state-of-the-art technology, the most-advanced training and innovative research efforts led by UT Southwestern, our team is continuously pursuing, discovering and applying new-found knowledge to take better care of your child. Our team includes:

- **Richard Kirk, MA, FRCP, FRCPCH**  
  Professor of Pediatrics, UT Southwestern | Director, Heart Failure and Transplant Program
- **Robert “Jake” Jaquiss, M.D.**  
  Division Director, Pediatric and Congenital Cardiothoracic Surgery  
  Co-Director, The Heart Center  
  Professor of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery and Professor of Pediatrics, UT Southwestern
- **Ryan Butts, M.D.**  
  Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, UT Southwestern  
  Assistant Director, Heart Failure and Transplant Program
- **Ryan Davies, M.D.**  
  Associate Professor of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, UT Southwestern  
  Surgical Director, Pediatric Heart Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program
- **David Sutcliffe, M.D.**  
  Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, UT Southwestern | Medical Director, Mechanical Circulatory Support
- **Tim Pirolli, M.D.**  
  Assistant Professor in Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, UT Southwestern  
  Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Pediatric Heart Transplant and Mechanical Circulatory Support Program
- **Maria Bano, M.D.**  
  Assistant Professor in Pediatrics, UT Southwestern | Pediatric Cardiologist, Heart Failure Program

To learn about our entire team, visit [childrens.com/heart](http://childrens.com/heart)

---

Our Multidisciplinary Team

- Administrators
- Bedside Nurses
- Child Life
- Dieticians
- Financial Advisors
- Imaging
- Laboratory
- Nurse Coordinators
- Nurse Practitioners
- Palliative Care
- Pastoral Care
- Pathology
- Pet Therapy Dogs
- Physicians
- Pharmacists
- Psychologists
- Social Workers
- Surgeons
For more information about the Heart Failure Program at Children’s Health call 214-456-2333 or visit childrens.com/heart