

Division of Pediatric Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine

Saint Louis University School of Medicine
at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon
Children's Hospital, St. Louis, MO

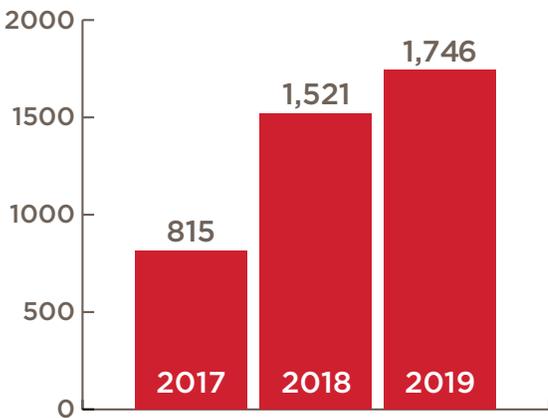


At SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, our experienced pulmonology specialists are ranked among the best by U.S. News & World Report and provide expert care for all pulmonary disorders, including asthma, recurrent pneumonia, chronic cough, respiratory distress, cystic fibrosis, sleep disorders, and children with medical complexity, including patients on home mechanical ventilation.

Asthma

In the St. Louis region, childhood asthma prevalence is more than twice state and national averages, with 19.6% of children diagnosed with the disease. Over the past three years, the number of pediatric outpatient visits for asthma-related issues at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital has more than doubled.

Total Asthma Outpatient Visits



Pediatric Asthma Quality Benchmarks

Asthma Core Measures Compliance In 99th percentile for 8+ years

Average Length of Stay 2.0 days

*as compared to 2.2-2.5 nationally

For the past 10 years, a continuous quality improvement effort as well as the implementation of a strict asthma protocol has not only decreased variation in care and medication compliance of asthma patients, but also improved hospital lengths of stay and readmissions. Average hospital length of stay for children with a primary diagnosis of asthma is lower than the national average and re-admission of patients for asthma-related complications is effectively at 0%. Pulmonologists coordinate the care of young asthma patients with critical care medicine and allergy and immunology specialists.



Cystic Fibrosis

SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital has a robust, multidisciplinary Cystic Fibrosis Center. The center is a nationally Accredited Care Center of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and a member of the Cystic Fibrosis Therapeutics Development Network (TDN), the largest network for collaborative clinical trials related to cystic fibrosis in the world. Recent clinical trials have evaluated new treatment options, including the use of CFTR modulators. The center has more than a dozen active multicenter studies under way, including the Orkambi trial, which is investigating the effectiveness of an FDA-approved cystic fibrosis medication for patients between the ages of 2 and 5 with a specific mutation in the CFTR gene.

Published research by pulmonologists here has documented care coordination programs that improve compliance with quarterly clinic visits, regular respiratory cultures and pulmonary function testing. Implementation of educational programs and tracking systems improved the percentage of patients attending clinics by an estimated 86%.

Specialized Services

Of particular note is the center's addition of mental health counseling services for young CF patients and their families as well as a dedicated pharmacy concierge service to help families navigate insurance coverage and medication needs.

Transition Care Services

The center cares for cystic fibrosis patients from newborn through adulthood. It offers transition care coordination through its affiliation with the adult Cystic Fibrosis Center at SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital.

SLUCare Pediatric Pulmonologist Gary Albers, MD, is a member of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Center Committee and leads its Targeted Assistance Program (TAP) to assist other centers across the country in pursuing and maintaining CF accreditation.

Pediatric Sleep and Research Center

The Pediatric Sleep and Research Center at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital is one of only four such centers in the state of Missouri accredited by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and the center is staffed by five sleep specialists. In addition to clinic visits, the center has a seven-bed sleep laboratory where sleep studies are conducted seven days a week for patients from infancy to age 21.

The team includes pulmonologists, sleep medicine specialists, neurologists, otolaryngologists, plastic surgeons, psychiatrists, psychologists, and urologists who collaborate on treatment recommendations.

The hallmark of the program is the ability for rapid referral of sleep studies, which enhances both early diagnosis and treatment.

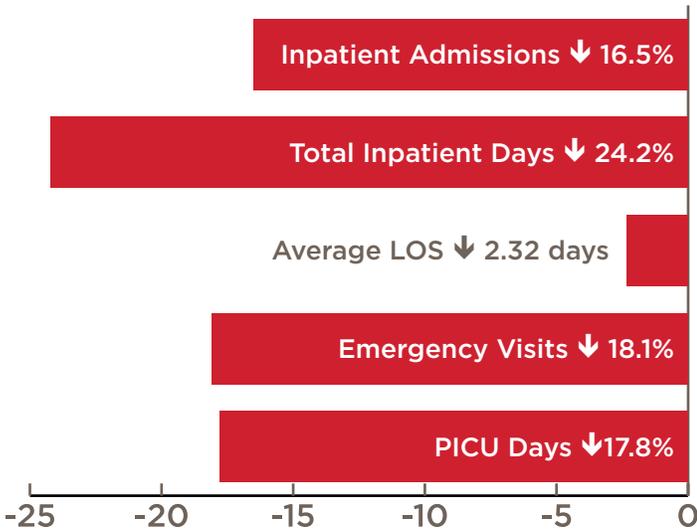
From 2017 to 2019, patient volume in SSM Health Cardinal Glennon's Pediatric Sleep and Research Center has more than tripled.



Complex Medical Care Program (CMCP)

SSM Health Cardinal Glennon's Complex Medical Care Program has demonstrated proven positive outcomes for the management and coordination of complex medical care between the home, hospital, and outpatient care settings. Since the program was established in 2016, inpatient admissions, hospital lengths of stay, and emergency department visits have declined significantly among enrolled children.

Complex Medical Care Program (CMCP) Improved Outcomes



Data represents all patients enrolled from start of CMCP program (4/2016) through YTD 2020

Unlike other complex care programs, this program is unique in that it is overseen and staffed by pulmonologists along with general pediatricians. It includes a 15-member team of physicians, advanced nurse practitioners and nurse navigators, a respiratory therapist, clinical pharmacist, social workers, and registered dietitians. Children from newborn to age 12 with four or more subspecialists involved in their care or who have frequent or extended hospital stays are eligible for the program. The multidisciplinary program offers several dedicated weekly clinics for patients and, to date, has coordinated the care of more than 500 children enrolled in the program.

The team's expertise also is nationally recognized. CMCP medical director Kurt Sobush, MD, currently serves as chair-elect of the Complex Care Committee of the American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.

Outreach Pulmonary Care Services

Pulmonologists in the division staff multiple community clinics in the region, from mid-Missouri to southern Illinois. In addition to onsite services, the team also offers a comprehensive telemedicine consultation and referral service.

Pulmonology-Sleep Medicine Fellowship

Saint Louis University School of Medicine offers a one-year, ACGME-approved sleep medicine fellowship that provides training in both adult and pediatric sleep medicine. Pediatric sleep medicine fellowship training is provided at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

For physician consultations, contact the SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Access Center at **1-888-229-2424**.

SLUCare Division of **Pediatric Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine Faculty**

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Pediatric pulmonologists at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital are faculty of Saint Louis University School of Medicine and members of its SLUCare Physician Group. The hospital is the only free-standing, not-for-profit Catholic pediatric hospital in the United States and is a member of SSM Health, one of the largest Catholic health care systems in the country. For more information about the hospital, visit cardinalglennon.com.



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