Leadership
Andre Dick, MD, MPH
Surgical Director, Kidney Transplant

Jodi Smith, MD, MPH
Medical Director, Kidney Transplant

Patrick Healey, MD
Division Chief, Transplantation

Common Causes of Kidney Failure
• Obstructive and reflux nephropathy
• Renal dysplasia
• Glomerulonephritis
• Congenital kidney and bladder defects
• Autoimmune diseases
• Tumors

Innovation and Expertise Earn Top-Five Ranking
Renowned for handling the most-complex cases, Seattle Children’s is recognized as one of the top five kidney transplant programs in the nation in terms of patient- and graft-survival outcomes as well as volumes. Just as we believe patients are best served through interdisciplinary care, we take a multifaceted approach to kidney transplant. In addition to our focus on clinical, immunosuppressive and surgical advances, we’re leaders in national research and advocacy for policy improvements relating to kidney disease. Children’s remains the only pediatric kidney transplant program in Washington, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Hawaii. Our program has been named a Center of Excellence by Optum’s Clinical Sciences Institute and a Program of Excellence by Cigna LifeSOURCE. Our patients include infants, children, teens and young adults through age 21.

Excellent Survival Rates
Since 1984, Children’s specialists have performed 425 kidney transplants. Of the 48 kidney transplants performed at Children’s between January 2013 and June 2015, the expected one-year survival rate based on age, diagnosis and severity was 92.31%, and our actual survival rate was 97.92%.
“At Seattle Children’s, my transplant patients and families receive a level of care that is as good as any they can find in the world.”

— Jeremy Gitomer, MD, pediatric nephrologist
Kidney and Hypertension Clinic of Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska

Educating Future Leaders
Our pediatric nephrology fellowship program is one of six in the country funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Advancing Therapies for Best Results
Through our leadership in organizations that research organ rejection and work to improve viral surveillance methods, we are involved in developing more-effective therapies. Our focus on clinical trials leads to the best new treatments for kidney transplant patients. Currently we’re involved with these innovative therapies and studies:

• National multicenter studies to reduce patients’ dependences on immunosuppressive drugs
• Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) for patients with highly sensitive immune systems
• Studying how and when viral infections such as cytomegalovirus (CMV) or Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) develop, with a goal of preventing or treating new viruses before they affect a patient’s health
• Steroid-free treatments to protect bone integrity
• Study the impact of transplant on the quality of life for the patient
• “TAKE-IT” study for improving medication adherence
• Our physicians and team members are also on national committees such as NAPRTCS, UNOS, SRTR, and IROC
• As part of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), we work to change and improve national pediatric organ policies so that children move nearer to the top of the recipient list.
• Transplant families generally experience their most-difficult challenges as children learn to live with their new organs. Our transplant nurse coordinators help ease the transition as patients adjust to home care regimens. Referring providers have 24/7 access to our transplant specialists.