



Maternal-Fetal and Neonatal Care



Driscoll
Children's Hospital

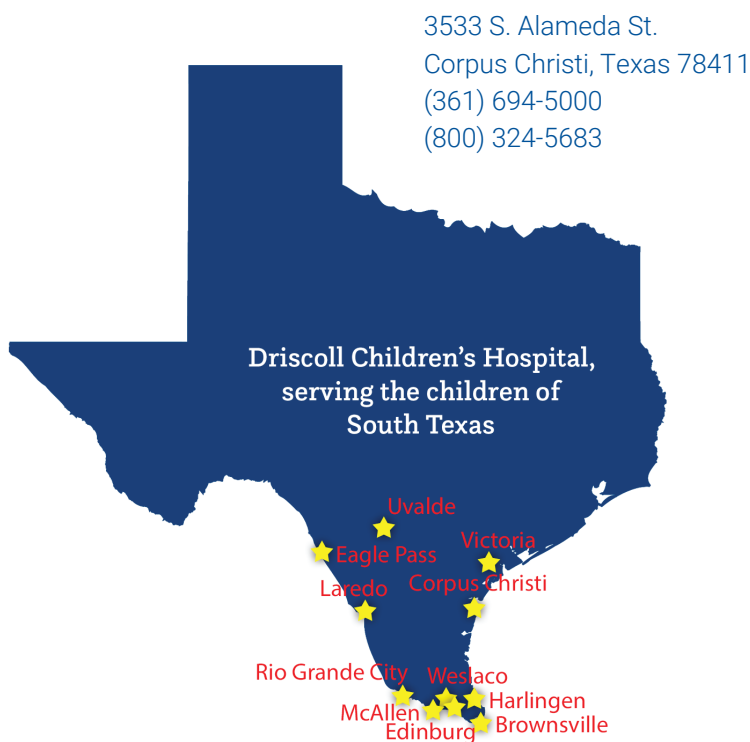
Corpus Christi, Texas

- DURING PREGNANCY
- AFTER YOUR CHILD IS BORN
- WHILE IN THE HOSPITAL

Driscoll Children's Hospital is prepared ...

...to care for any at-risk baby and his or her mother, from pregnancy through the first months of life. Our complete care starts with maternal-fetal medicine specialists. These are doctors who are specially trained to care for mothers and babies during the mother's pregnancy. In addition, our wide range of care includes a variety of therapies and programs that make sure that any high-risk baby in South Texas will have the best chances of living a healthy, normal life.

Because we're located within easy driving distance, Driscoll's location can better serve those who live in the Rio Grande Valley, Laredo, Victoria or the many towns in between.



About our health system:

- Serving 31 counties and 33,000 square miles of South Texas
- 235 doctors on medical staff in more than 30 specialties
- 22-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
- 61-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- 8 surgical suites
- Approximately 46,000 annual Emergency Department visits
- Comprehensive surgical services including general surgery, cardiovascular, orthopaedic and neurology
- Pediatric subspecialty centers located in Harlingen, Laredo, McAllen, Brownsville and Victoria
- Pediatric cardiology clinics
- Texas A&M University affiliation (affiliated with 34 colleges & universities across Texas and the United States)
- Accredited with the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)

Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialists

Expectant mothers and their unborn babies who are at high risk for certain health problems should seek maternal-fetal medicine specialists. Maternal-fetal medicine specialists receive two to three years of additional training that focuses on high-risk pregnancies, ultrasound techniques and fetal anomalies.



Question:

Why would an expectant mother go to a maternal-fetal medicine specialist?

Answer:

Most women seek care from a maternal-fetal medicine specialist because they are “at risk” and are considering becoming pregnant or because they are pregnant and “high risk.”

From one of our families...



“I had a difficult pregnancy with triplets and my experience at Driscoll’s Maternal-Fetal Medicine was great. From the doctors to their entire staff, they were very attentive to my needs. They treat every patient with respect and make them feel special. Dr. Cherie Johnson is truly a genuine, warm and very caring human being. She was a great comfort to me in dealing with my pregnancy and did all that was needed to make sure my delivery would be successful. I strongly feel that without everyone’s help at Maternal-Fetal Medicine, I wouldn’t have my three beautiful miracles.”

– Karla Flores-Sosa
McAllen, Texas



Driscoll maternal-fetal medicine specialists can offer a range of prenatal testing, including:

- Imaging
- Ultrasound
- Invasive diagnostics

There are many difficult procedures and medical words involved in maternal-fetal medicine. Talk to your specialist about any concerns or procedures you don't understand completely. They'll be happy to explain them to you.

Question:

Who should visit a maternal-fetal medicine specialist?

Answer:

1) Women with health disorders, such as:

- Heart disease
- High blood pressure (chronic or pregnancy induced)
- Diabetes or other endocrine disorders
- Kidney or gastrointestinal disease
- Infectious diseases
- Maternal immune disorder

2) Patients undergoing procedures during pregnancy, such as:

- Comprehensive ultrasound
- Chorionic villus sampling
- Genetic amniocentesis
- Fetal surgery or treatment

3) Healthy women whose pregnancy is at high risk for complications, such as:

- Abnormal maternal serum screening
- Twins, triplets or more
- Recurrent pre-term labor and delivery
- Premature rupture of membranes
- Recurrent pregnancy loss
- Suspected fetal growth restriction
- Advanced maternal age (over 35 years old)



Driscoll Children's Hospital serves 31 counties in South Texas covering 33,000 square miles.

After your baby is born

Your baby may be transferred to Driscoll Children's Hospital. Because we are not a birthing hospital, all of the babies cared for in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) are born at other hospitals. Driscoll has the only specially trained neonatal and pediatric transport team in South Texas, offering both ground and air transports.

Driscoll's Transport Team: Transporting to DCH

Every year, Driscoll's Transport Team transfers more than 840 neonatal and pediatric patients to or from Driscoll Children's Hospital, as well as local, state, national and even international facilities.

Our expert staff consists of registered nurses, registered respiratory therapists, paramedics and/or emergency medical technicians. Driscoll's patient- and family-centered care approach is committed to providing the highest standard of care to our patients and their families.

If your baby needs to be transferred to Driscoll Children's Hospital, have your doctor call our dispatch center toll free at (800) 879-KIDS (5437).

Driscoll's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)



Our NICU staff is dedicated, caring and compassionate. They care for each baby by providing the best treatment options and information.

Our Level IV NICU babies come to us for many reasons, including:

- Prematurity (carried less than 37 weeks)
- Respiratory distress (breathing problems)
- Infections
- Birth defects
- Other illnesses

Staffed by neonatologists 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Driscoll's 61-bed NICU has cared for more than 20,000 premature and critical babies in South Texas. We offer the highest level of care in 31 counties.

The NICU uses a patient- and family-centered approach to care for the tiniest and sickest of babies. Families are integral in the healing and recovery process of their baby, so the NICU's 24/7 visitation policy allows families to spend as much time as possible with their infant on their terms. If they work shift jobs, for example, they can visit at 2:00 a.m.

Another example of Driscoll's commitment to family-centered care is evident through medical rounding with doctors. Families are encouraged to take part in rounds and the nurse shift report to ask questions and give feedback on their baby's progress.

Some of the things Driscoll's NICU offers:

- Web-cam visits that allow families who are not able to come to see their baby to speak with doctors and staff
- Conference calling that allows real-time consultation with specialists during ground and air transport
- The new use of Avastin therapy for the treatment of retinopathy of prematurity, a disease that causes blindness in premature infants. Driscoll can transport patients from any hospital in the United States for Avastin therapy and transport them back to their referring hospital. In some cases, patients who live close to Driscoll may be brought to the hospital by their parents or guardians and the therapy performed on an outpatient basis.

Other NICU services include:

- Transport Team (fixed wing/helicopter/ground transportation)
- Full-time social worker and discharge planner
- Breastfeeding facilities and lactation specialist
- Pastoral services
- Rooming-in facility for pre-discharge

The NICU also offers developmental care:

- Physical therapist
- Occupational therapist
- Feeding and swallowing specialist

From one of our families...



"Our son, Samuel Austin Martinez, Jr., was born premature at 31 weeks... with many congenital anomalies that included an imperforated anus, esophageal atresia and an extra extremity.

"The NICU at Driscoll Children's Hospital was a god-send. We were sent angels in the form of nurses and doctors who cared for Sammy and healed him through their abundance of wisdom, caring and top-rate service. The NICU is a family of individuals who embrace all of their

patients and serve as a source of comfort and guidance for parents who are going through a traumatic experience. We are eternally grateful to the NICU staff for giving us hope and saving our son's life."

– Samuel Sr. and Jamie Martinez
Brownsville, Texas

Cardiology:

Since 1962, Driscoll Children's Heart Center has offered high-quality pediatric cardiology services to children across South Texas. With many successes and firsts in the region, the Heart Center has remained at the forefront of pediatric care. Our cardiologists offer medical services such as non-invasive imaging, electrophysiology services and interventional cardiology procedures. They're available to consult for many conditions, such as fetal and neonatal evaluation, heart murmur, arrhythmias and others. Annually, Driscoll Children's Heart Center performs approximately 11,000 echocardiograms, 650 fetal evaluations, 235 heart catheterization procedures, 35 electrophysiology studies and 220 surgeries.

Cardiology services include:

- Non-invasive imaging, such as cardiac MRIs/MRAs and nuclear studies
- Electrophysiology, including pacemaker implantation
- Interventional cardiology, such as angioplasty and stent implantation

Surgery:

Also part of Driscoll's expert neonatal care is a multidisciplinary team of physicians and surgeons. Driscoll Children's Hospital provides high-quality surgical care to infants who are born with or develop abnormalities of the neck, chest, lungs or airways, digestive tract or urinary system. Whether a patient requires thoracic, general or urologic surgical care, the goal is to provide treatment using the least invasive approach possible.

Urology:

For children who are born with or develop abnormalities of the urinary or genital systems, Driscoll offers pediatric urologists who are able to address urinary and genital tract conditions in both males and females, spinal cord disorders, urinary stones and others.

Urology services include:

- Genitourinary surgery
- Kidney, adrenal, bladder or prostate tumors
- Ovarian cyst or tumor
- Frequent urinary tract infections
- Enuresis (bedwetting)
- Congenital anomalies (birth defects)
- Kidney stones
- Phimosis (circumcision)
- Transplants for end-stage kidney disease

While in the hospital

Driscoll knows that a hospital stay can disrupt a family's life and sometimes be frightening for a mother and her baby. With this in mind, we offer many services and programs for the comfort and well-being of our families.

- **Cottage Shop:** The Cottage Shop is a resale shop that carries an assortment of items families may need during a hospitalization.
- **Dr. Jim Duff Guest Rooms:** The Dr. Jim Duff Guest Rooms are available to out-of-town families whose children are hospitalized.
- **Family Connection:** This one-stop-shop is a place for families to relax, use the computer, fax or copy machine and check out books, videos or magazines.
- **Injury Prevention:** The Injury Prevention Program promotes the health and safety of children through lectures, individual meetings and events.
- **Interpretation Services:** Driscoll offers in-house Spanish interpreters Monday through Friday, a Language Line for after-hours interpretations and languages other than Spanish and American Sign Language interpreters.
- **Mom's Place:** This is a private place for moms to pump and store breast milk 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A lactation specialist is on staff to assist with any questions or concerns.
- **Pastoral Services:** Chaplains are available during the day and on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to serve all patients and their families.
- **Patient Relations:** Patient Relations representatives provide information about services, answer basic questions and respond to needs, compliments, concerns and/or special requests.
- **Ronald McDonald House:** The Ronald McDonald House has 25 bedrooms, a kitchen and common areas for families whose child is hospitalized at Driscoll.
- **Social Work:** Social workers at Driscoll help patients and their families cope with sudden or long-term illness, trauma and hospitalization.
- **Stripes Child Life Program at Driscoll Children's Hospital:** Child life specialists help children and families cope with the stress of hospitalization by offering support and preparing patients for medical procedures.
- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program:** Driscoll's WIC Program provides benefits and services to pregnant or new mothers and children under 5 years old.

Driscoll Health Plan

If you or your children need insurance, you may want to consider Driscoll Health Plan (DHP). DHP has a dedicated medical team made up of doctors for children and adults. No matter what existing health problems you or your child may

have, DHP will accept you. DHP offers low-cost or free insurance to children and adults. For more information on DHP, call (877) DCHP-KIDS or go to driscollhealthplan.com.

Regular Staff

- Pediatrician: A doctor who specializes in treating babies and children.
- Maternal-fetal medicine specialist: A doctor who specializes in the care of high-risk mothers and babies during pregnancy.
- Neonatologist: A pediatrician who specializes in treating sick newborn babies.
- Neonatal fellow: A pediatrician who is getting extra training to become a neonatologist.
- Resident: A doctor training in pediatrics.
- Pharmacist: A specialist in medications. He or she makes sure your child receives the right medication in the correct amount and on schedule.
- PA (physician assistant) and NP (nurse practitioner): Professionals trained to do many of the same tasks as doctors.
- RN (registered nurse): A professional who gives bedside nursing care and supervises other nurses.
- LVN (licensed vocational nurse) or LPN (licensed practical nurse): A nurse who provides care with RN supervision.
- Social worker: A professional who helps with non-medical issues, such as insurance, transportation and emotional support.
- Respiratory therapist: A professional who manages oxygen and other breathing therapies.
- Lactation specialist: A professional who helps mothers and babies with breastfeeding and related concerns.
- Physical therapist: A professional who evaluates and treats problems with physical and muscular development.

Specialists

Each of these doctors specializes in a different body system or part of the body:

- Cardiologist: the heart
- Endocrinologist: glands and hormones
- Gastroenterologist: the digestive system
- Geneticist: genetic (inherited) conditions
- Hematologist: blood
- Nephrologist: kidneys
- Neurologist: the brain and nervous system
- Ophthalmologist: eyes
- Pulmonologist: lungs
- Urologist: the urine and genitourinary tract