

# The CHARGE Center



The CHARGE Team at Cincinnati Children's is a multidisciplinary group of clinicians and therapists who provide comprehensive and coordinated healthcare to children with CHARGE Syndrome. We recognize that for families and physicians, managing these children with their complex medical and psychosocial needs can seem overwhelming. We aim to assume as much of the logistical burden of care by coordinating interventions at the optimal time. Our goal is to change the outcome for these children by helping them reach their full potential.

## CONTACT US

For patient referrals, and non-urgent consultation during business hours, contact the center directly at:

Phone: **513-636-2518**  
**CHARGE@cchmc.org**

**International**  
Phone: **+1-513-636-3100**  
**international@cchmc.org**

[cincinnatichildrens.org/charge](https://cincinnatichildrens.org/charge)

## HOW WE'RE DIFFERENT

The CHARGE Center at Cincinnati Children's is the first of its kind. We provide a collaborative approach to help families and primary caregivers navigate the medical and developmental challenges associated with this condition.

- Our multidisciplinary team includes nurses, dietitians, genetic counselors, social workers and doctors. We collaborate with more than 13 specialties at Cincinnati Children's: aerodigestive/feeding team, gastroenterology, audiology, cardiology, developmental and behavioral pediatrics, endocrinology, genetics, occupational therapy, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, physical therapy, pulmonology, plastic surgery and speech language therapy.
- Once the most pressing medical concerns are under control, we are proactive in optimizing patients' hearing, vision and development. Early intervention in areas critical to learning and communication is crucial for the best possible outcomes for children with CHARGE Syndrome.
- Coordinated care means we get information from families about their child's medical and developmental needs, review records, and discuss the child's potential visit needs in a pre-visit meeting that includes a variety of medical providers. Based on the input from families and the discussion of the medical providers, an individualized plan is generated. We strive to schedule as many visits as possible within a short period of time while taking into consideration how many visits the family and child can process at a time.
- Our nurse coordinator acts as a point person for families, by facilitating the process of obtaining medical records, coordinating visits, follow ups and addressing questions and concerns.
- We conduct pre-op cardiology clearance and our anesthesia team's expertise with CHARGE patients ensure the patient's surgical care is optimally safe.



Cincinnati Children's is ranked **#3** in the nation among Honor Roll hospitals.



**75**

Children treated per year with CHARGE Syndrome

**13+**

Number of specialties collaborating with the CHARGE Team

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For questions regarding our CHARGE Center Research Registry, call 513-803-4471

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For urgent issues, or to speak with the specialist on call 24/7, call the Physician Priority Link at 1-888-987-7997.

For international inquiries, call +1-513-636-3100 or email [international@cchmc.org](mailto:international@cchmc.org).

## EVALUATION

Our nurse coordinator interviews the family, obtains medical records, and presents the information to our CHARGE Center providers. The team's recommendations are then conveyed to a care coordinator who schedules all of the recommended testing and examinations.

After collaborating with the CHARGE Center team, the nurse coordinator will review the recommendations with the family and discuss the next steps best suited for them.

## TREATMENT APPROACH

The goal of the CHARGE team at Cincinnati Children's is to offer patients and their families a full spectrum of first-class services and expertise by clinicians with extensive knowledge of and experience with CHARGE Syndrome, along with the organizational help they need to access care in the most efficient way possible.

Early on, infants and toddlers with CHARGE Syndrome often present with breathing and feeding problems caused by facial, throat, tracheal and/or esophageal malformations and/or heart defects, demanding immediate intervention. Once these life-threatening problems have been addressed, our focus quickly shifts to these children's hearing, vision and development so that they are able to optimize outcomes and quality of life. Addressing medical issues early on is important in order to allow a focus on broader development and communication needs.

## RESEARCH TO ADVANCE CLINICAL CARE

Cincinnati Children's is dedicated to improving outcomes through clinical research. The newly formed CHARGE Center is in the process of developing a database for future studies.

## TREATMENT TEAM

### Otolaryngology

**Daniel Choo, MD**  
*Co-Director, CHARGE Center*  
*Director, Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery*

Allesandro deAlarcon, MD, MPH

Catherine Hart, MD

Lucy Marcheschi, BSN, RNII, CPN

### Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics

**Susan Wiley, MD**  
*Co-Director, CHARGE Center*

### Human Genetics

Robert Hopkin, MD

Howard Saal, MD, FACMG

Brittany Simpson, MD

### Ophthalmology

Eniolami Dosunmu, MD

### Plastic Surgery

Brian Pan, MD

### Colorectal Center

**Jason Frischer, MD,**  
*Director*

**Nelson Rosen, MD**  
*Associate Director*