

The Program for Adult Congenital Heart Disease (PACHD)

ADULT CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE CARE

What is an Adult Congenital Heart Clinic or Program?

An adult congenital heart program is a highly specialized comprehensive care center for adults with congenital heart disease on both cardiac and non-cardiac issues. Typically these centers are located in university medical centers

These centers typically consist of the following personnel at minimum:

- Pediatric cardiologists
- Adult cardiologists
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physician Assistants
- Registered Nurses
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Cardiothoracic congenital heart surgeons (pediatric/adult)
- Anesthesiologists who are comfortable with CHD
- High risk or Maternal Fetal OB/Gyn physicians/providers
- Cardiology electrophysiologists

An increasing number of centers may have:

- Dual-trained cardiologists (both adult/pediatric)
- Psychologists
- Patient financial counselors
- Pharmacy financial assistance counselors

When does one start to make the switch to an ACHD clinic?

Often in mid-late teen years the transition is made, but the exact timing is something you, your family and your pediatric cardiologists all decide upon together.

ABOUT US

Our ACHD Providers

The Penn State Hershey Heart and Vascular Institute Program for Adults with Congenital Heart Disease (PACHD) has been in existence since 1991 and is the oldest ACHD program in Pennsylvania. Our program treats inpatients and outpatients, ages 18 and older, with newly discovered or known congenital heart disease regardless of prior surgery. Individuals with Marfan syndrome or those requiring evaluation for Marfan syndrome and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy are also welcome in our program. Additional genetic counseling and diagnostic evaluations are available through our genetic counselors.

The adult program works closely with our pediatric colleagues from [Penn State Hershey Children's Heart Group](#), including two congenital heart disease surgeons. Our adult program providers consist of three full-time adult cardiologists and one nurse practitioner.

- William R. Davidson, Jr., M.D., Director
- John Kelleman, M.D.
- Jennifer Grando-Ting, M.D.
- Michelle J. Nickolaus, CRNP

Our Team

Our echo cardiogram, catheterization, and electrophysiology labs have extensive experience in congenital cardiac conditions. We also have a valuable resource in our high-risk OB group, cardiac MRI/MRA, and medical genetics teams. Additionally, we have expertise in the management of heart rhythm problems, which commonly occur in adults with congenital heart disease.

Our Locations

There are two locations at which our specialists see patients:

I.O. Silver Cardiovascular Specialties Clinic, Suite 600 of the University Physician Center on the campus of Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Clinic hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays.

Penn State Hershey Medical Group -Nyes Road, 121 Nyes Rd, Harrisburg. Clinic hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Thursdays and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Patients may be referred by their physician or self-referred to the program. Appointments may be made or changed by calling our toll-free access center at 1-877-GOPSHVI(1-877-467-7484).