The Hospital for Sick Children
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
The Hospital for Sick Children

Healthier children. A better world.™

The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) is a world-renowned academic health sciences centre and is ranked as one of the top paediatric health-care facilities in the world. Located in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, SickKids is ideally situated to meet the paediatric health-care needs of the international community.

- SickKids has been improving the lives of children for more than 130 years
- As a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto, our international academic reputation is well-established
- Each year, clinical and research trainees from around the world choose SickKids for their specialty training
- Senior clinicians and scientists from SickKids hold leadership positions in international professional, clinical and research associations

Our mission: As innovators in child health, we will lead and partner to improve the health of children through the integration of care, education and research by:

- Providing the best in complex and specialized health care for children
- Creating groundbreaking scientific and clinical advancements
- Sharing our knowledge and expertise worldwide
- Championing the development of an accessible, comprehensive and sustainable child health-care system

SickKids International

SickKids International was established to extend the reach of the hospital globally. We recognize the need to build sustainable, integrated programs with local, national and international partners that will enhance measurable outcomes and improve efficiencies in the delivery of health care for children.

SickKids International has access to a full spectrum of expertise from all disciplines in paediatric health care at SickKids and provides a link to leading-edge knowledge for improving and building child health globally, including:

- Linking organizations to the world-renowned talents and knowledge of staff at SickKids
- Developing international partnerships to advance paediatric clinical care, research and education
- Providing advisory services aimed at improving children’s health

Our mission: SickKids International collaborates with national and global partners to improve the health of children worldwide through the advancement of child health education, clinical and research initiatives.
The SickKids Experience
Meeting the health-care needs of an international community

The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) is located at the heart of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, one of the world’s most culturally diverse cities. Toronto is home to more than 5 million people, nearly 46 per cent of whom are foreign-born and speak an estimated 100 languages and dialects.

SickKids provides the highest level of complex care to paediatric patients from the city of Toronto and across Canada and works in collaboration with health-care organizations in more than 75 other countries for the betterment of child health. Our experience has provided us with a unique understanding of the needs of a diverse patient population and ideally positions us as advisors to the international health-care community.

At SickKids, we believe in a family-centred standard of care – one that focuses on the unique needs of each patient family to ensure that they remain involved, educated and integral members of the health-care team. Our diverse team of inter-professional health-care experts comes to us from more than 70 countries and includes the world’s foremost experts on a full range of paediatric specialties.

Through its international partnerships, SickKids has achieved a standard of paediatric care that embraces diversity and supports our vision of Healthier children. A better world.™

Patient Care
Establishing an international standard of paediatric care

- Assessing local health-care needs, with sensitivity to cultural values
- Designing family-centred, inter-professional models of care
- Developing patient care protocols and measurements that enable continued best practice

At SickKids, patient care is based on a commitment to the integration of research, education and clinical care and on an understanding that the health-care team must work closely with patient families in order to achieve the best outcomes for children.
Paediatric Hospital Infrastructure

Building world-class facilities

- Determining local needs
- Conducting facility design assessments
- Developing recommendations for hospital design and for the selection and procurement of equipment and information technology
- Establishing timelines for implementation and cost-effective protocols

Leading paediatric hospitals optimize the quality and efficiency of their services through a highly developed physical and electronic infrastructure. At SickKids, we strive to create an environment that serves both our patients’ medical requirements and the unique needs of each family.

Clinical Services Planning

Improving the quality and delivery of clinical programs

- Assessing current clinical offerings
- Defining areas of expertise that meet the needs of the local population
- Designing and implementing programs to address gaps in service delivery
- Incorporating best practices to enhance clinical program management and improve workflow process

Effective clinical services require thoughtful planning, systematic implementation and rigorous evaluation standards. SickKids’ clinical programs are inter-professional and integrate research, education and clinical care to ensure innovation, quality and efficiency in the delivery of patient services.
The SickKids Research Institute is currently involved in more than 2,500 funded research projects and clinical protocols.

SickKids’ Telemedicine Program is connected to 1,700 centres worldwide, conducting more than 1,100 videoconferences per year for the purpose of medical education, training and clinical consultation.

Education & Training

Sharing knowledge and experience

- Researching and evaluating education practices
- Developing standards for curriculum design, education delivery and mentorship
- Improving education at all organizational levels and across all areas of paediatric health care
- Sharing SickKids’ expertise

As one of the largest and most advanced paediatric academic health sciences centres in the world, SickKids understands the direct correlation between effective education and the delivery of quality health care. The SickKids Learning Institute is committed to developing innovative ways of evaluating and enhancing education delivery.

Research & Innovation

Developing research capabilities worldwide

- Identifying clinical and societal priorities
- Developing and implementing effective clinical and research studies
- Establishing a scientific infrastructure

Research is vital to improving health outcomes in today’s rapidly evolving health-care environment. The SickKids Research Institute has been a leader in paediatric health research for more than five decades, contributing groundbreaking discoveries in the areas of Cell Biology, Child Health Evaluative Sciences, Developmental & Stem Cell Biology, Genetics & Genome Biology, Molecular Structure & Function, Neurosciences & Mental Health and Physiology & Experimental Medicine.
Quality, Patient Safety & Risk Management

Improving methods, improving outcomes

- Assessing current quality and risk management programs
- Developing performance indicators and quality improvement tools
- Providing evidence-based recommendations for patient safety, incident reporting and the prevention and management of adverse events

Given the complexities of today’s medical environment, programs that monitor and address the quality and safety of patient care are increasingly important. At SickKids, we specialize in measuring and improving health-care services and managing risk in a multi-disciplinary, patient and family focused environment.

Process Improvement & Redesign

Developing frameworks for best practice

- Conducting thorough program assessments
- Identifying areas for improvement
- Building a culture conducive to change, with a focus on best practice
- Developing plans to improve process and accreditation preparedness

To lead, hospitals must build a culture of evidence-based decision-making, accountability and continuous process improvement. SickKids values integrated human resources planning, financial management and information management as key to an innovative and effective organization.
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