MCGHealth Cardiovascular Center: Your #1 Referral Choice

When your patients experience cardiovascular problems, you’ll want them to receive the best possible care by experienced physicians and surgeons equipped with advanced technology. The MCGHealth Cardiovascular Center offers comprehensive, coordinated and team-based inpatient and outpatient care for patients with the full range of cardiovascular conditions. We will see your patient quickly, submit prompt, thorough reports on our findings and keep you updated on your patient’s progress.

To refer an adult heart patient, call 706-721-2426 or FAX 706-721-1459. To refer a pediatric heart patient, call 706-721-8522 or FAX 706-721-1459.

The Center Offers the Following Benefits to You and Your Patients

- A freestanding, easily accessible outpatient cardiovascular clinic with echo and nuclear diagnostic capabilities plus a vascular lab, patient education area and easy parking
- A team of preventive, diagnostic and interventional cardiologists who treat the full range of cardiovascular diseases
- The area’s only Women’s Heart Health Clinic
- An inpatient coronary care unit, cardiac step-down facility and two cardiac telemetry units
- The area’s first accredited Chest Pain Center to speed the delivery of care to heart attack patients

Meeting All Your Cardiovascular Needs

Diagnostics. The center offers a full range of tests and a fully accredited, digital adult echocardiography lab. Tests include:

- Echocardiograms, including special stress and trans-esophageal echocardiograms in a lab that is accredited by the Intersocietal Commission for Accreditation of Echocardiography Laboratories (ICAEL).
- Stress and nuclear stress tests
- Electrocardiograms
- Doppler (Venous and Carotid)
- Holter Monitors
- Event and loop recorders
- Vascular Angiography
- Ankle Brachial Index (ABI) for PVD
- Vascular Ultrasound
- Microvascular circulation test to determine how much oxygen is reaching tissue and help determine care plans for PVD patients
- A 64-slice CT Scanner
**General cardiology.** Our general cardiology services include complete cardiovascular diagnosis, management and care, from prevention to early detection to treatment. Common diagnoses include:

- Angina
- Atherosclerosis
- Cardiomyopathy
- Congenital heart disease
- Coronary artery disease (CAD)
- Heart failure
- Hypertension
- Pregnancy and heart disease

**A digital cardiac catheterization lab.** The lab offers the latest catheter-based devices. It consists of two catheterization suites, one equipped with digital high-resolution cineless technology for prompt delivery of high quality images. Services include:

- 24/7 emergency coverage
- Balloon angioplasty
- Coronary stent implantation
- Coronary artherectomy
- Rotoblation, in which a tip bores into a blockage creating tiny debris that is cleared from the blood as waste
- AngioJet therapy to dissolve blood clots in coronary arteries before balloon angioplasty or to reopen coronary bypass grafts or clogged stents
- Diagnostics and interventions for carotid artery disease and peripheral vascular disease (PVD) in the kidneys and legs

**MCGHealth Cardiac Catheterization Lab**

1120 15th Street, 6th Floor
Augusta, Georgia  30912
706-721-2426

To refer an adult heart patient, call 706-721-2426 or FAX  706-721-1459.
To refer a pediatric heart patient, call 706-721-8522 or FAX 706-721-1459.
**Electrophysiology.** Skilled electrophysiologists perform complex procedures on adults and children not available at other area hospitals, including ablation procedures for atrial fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia and other conditions. Services include:

- Conventional and advanced electrophysiology studies, including three-dimensional electroanatomical mapping
- Tilt table testing to diagnose and help manage syncope
- Licensed technicians
- Medications
- Pacemakers, implantable cardiodefibrillators (ICDs) and biventricular device management
- Lead extraction
- Radiofrequency catheter ablation
- Cryoablation
- Second opinions for arrhythmia and implanted device management
- Coordination of genetic testing for hereditary arrhythmia syndromes

**MCGHealth Electrophysiology Lab**
1120 15th Street, 8th Floor
Augusta, GA 30912
706-721-2426

**Nuclear cardiology.** MCGHealth Cardiovascular Center offers state-of-the-art nuclear stress tests and physicians specially trained to interpret these tests. We also offer a small nuclear camera that is well tolerated by patients with claustrophobia, a reclining chair for use during imaging rather than the flat table most labs use, and the following tests:

- Myocardial perfusion scan
- Multiple Gated Acquisition Scan (MUGA)
- Myocardial Viability Study
Carotid Artery Disease: MCGHealth’s Stroke Program brings together expertise from the Emergency Department, Neuroscience Center, Cardiopulmonary Services, Radiation, Surgery as well as specially trained nurses, therapists and registered dieticians. The program focuses on prevention, acute care management and secondary stroke prevention and offers the most advanced diagnostics and therapies, including:

- A full range of diagnostic tests: Doppler, carotid artery duplex scans, and a 64-slice CT Scanner
- Physicians who specialize in carotid artery disease and vascular surgery
- Access to all the physicians and resources of MCGHealth’s Neuroscience Center
- Carotid endocardectomy
- Newer minimally invasive Carotid Artery Angioplasty with Stenting (CAS)
- Embolic Prevention Devices. Inserted during CAS, these tiny devices catch any clots or small debris that might break loose during angioplasty.
- Physical, occupational and speech therapy

Heart failure: The Center offers comprehensive care for heart failure by cardiologists who specialize in this disorder. Services include:

- Medications and medical management
- Heart failure education
- Investigational drugs and devices
- Cardiac catheterization
- Electrophysiology services, including biventricular pacemakers
- A state-of-the-art Cardiac Rehabilitation Center
- Cardiac surgery

Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD). Leg pain after walking is not just a symptom of aging. It can indicate peripheral vascular disease, and possibly heart disease. Our medical staff includes cardiologists and surgeons who specialize in PVD and offer advanced diagnostic and treatment options including:

- Ankle Brachial Index (ABI) test
- A 64-slice CT scanner
- Diagnostics and interventions for PVD in the legs, arms and kidneys, including angioplasty and stents
- Microvascular Circulation Test to determine how much oxygen is reaching tissue and help determine a treatment plan
- Bypass surgery
- The latest artherectomy therapies to avoid stents or surgeries

To refer an adult heart patient, call 706-721-2426 or FAX 706-721-1459.
To refer a pediatric heart patient, call 706-721-8522 or FAX 706-721-1459.
**Cardiothoracic Surgery.** Our team of highly specialized cardiothoracic and vascular surgeons perform a complete range of cardiovascular surgeries, including:

- Mitral valve replacement and repair
- Coronary artery bypass, including “off pump” beating heart surgery
- Repair of congenital heart defects
- Mechanical assist device placement
- Surgery for aortic aneurysms
- Endocardectomy to clear carotid arteries
- Bypass surgeries for peripheral vascular disease

**Vascular Surgery.** Common surgeries performed by Vascular Surgery include:

- Endovascular repair of abdominal aortic aneurysms
- Endovascular repair of peripheral arterial aneurysms
- Endocardectomy and stenting for carotid artery stenosis
- Peripheral vascular angioplasty and stenting
- Minimally invasive treatment of venous disease
- Intravascular ultrasound

**Cardiac Rehabilitation Program.** MCGHealth’s Cardiac Rehabilitation Program offers the safety, security and equipment your patients need to speed their recovery. Common reasons for referral to cardiac rehab include CABG, MI within the past year, post PTCA, post stent, heart transplant, stable angina, valve repair or replacement. The Program offers:

- A board-certified physician who works directly in the Center. No other area cardiac rehab center has a dedicated on-site physician.
- An exercise physiologist who will design individual exercise plans for your patients
- A registered nurse specializing in cardiac care who will monitor your patients’ heart as they exercise
- Advanced exercise equipment and an indoor walking track
- Classes on smoking cessation, stress management, heart-healthy eating and blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes control
- Monthly updates to referring physicians
- A convenient location on the MCG campus, with free street-level parking right outside the building

To refer a patient to The Cardiac Rehabilitation Program, please call 706-721-9055.

To refer an adult heart patient, call 706-721-2426 or FAX 706-721-1459.
To refer a pediatric heart patient, call 706-721-8522 or FAX 706-721-1459.
Pediatric Cardiology Through MCGHealth Children’s Medical Center

The program offers:

- A team of Pediatric Cardiologists and a Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon
- Comprehensive in-house diagnostics and the region’s only dedicated Pediatric Hybrid Cardiac Catheterization Suite
- An inpatient pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) with wireless telemetry monitoring
- An inpatient pediatric heart unit for patients who do not require intensive care
- The region’s only Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) technology and specialists to keep the hearts and lungs of critically ill children working for up to two weeks during healing
- Arrhythmia evaluation and management
- Pacemaker management
- Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery and Pediatric Anesthesiologists
- Registered dieticians, medical social workers and respiratory therapists
- Consultative fetal cardiology services
- Child Life Specialists to help children understand and cope with care

To schedule an appointment with a pediatric cardiologist, please call 706-721-8522 or FAX 706-721-1459.
Physicians

Gautam Agarwal, MD
Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery
Clinical Interests: Endovascular Repair of Aneurysms, Endocardectomy and Stenting for Carotid Artery Stenosis, Peripheral Vascular Angioplasty and Stenting

Vishal Arora, MD
Interventional Cardiology
Clinical Interests: Endovascular Treatment of Peripheral Vascular Disease, Vascular Surgery

Adam Berman, MD
Electrophysiology
Director of Cardiac Arrhythmia Ablation Services
Clinical Interests: Electrophysiology, Ablation of Cardiac Arrhythmias

Mindy Gentry, MD
General Cardiology
Director of the Women’s Heart Program and Cardiac Rehab Program
Clinical Interests: Cardiovascular Disease in Women

Deepak Kapoor, MD
Interventional Cardiology
Director of Cardiac Catheterization Services and Peripheral Vascular Intervention Services
Clinical Interests: Interventional Cardiology, Coronary Artery Disease

mcghealth.org/cardio

To refer an adult heart patient, call 706-721-2426 or FAX 706-721-1459.
To refer a pediatric heart patient, call 706-721-8522 or FAX 706-721-1459.
Christopher Pallas, MD  
General Cardiology  
Clinical Interests: Diagnostic Invasive Cardiology, Interventional Cardiology, Echocardiography, Critical Care Cardiology

Vijay S. Patel, MD  
Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon  
Clinical Interests: Adult Cardiac Surgery, Cardiac Assist Devices

Vincent Robinson, MD  
General Cardiology  
Director of Nuclear Cardiology Services  
Clinical Interests: Nuclear Cardiology, Atherosclerotic Vascular Disease

Gyanendra Sharma, MD  
General Cardiology  
Medical Director MCGHealth Cardiovascular Center  
Clinical Interests: Valvular Heart Disease, MRI, Pulmonary Embolism, Preoperative Cardiac Risk Assessment, 3-D Echocardiography, Anticoagulation Management

Robert Sorrentino, MD  
Electrophysiology  
Interim Section Chief of Cardiology, Department of Medicine  
Clinical Interests: Electrophysiology, Management of Complex Arrhythmia and Devices

To refer an adult heart patient, call 706-721-2426 or FAX 706-721-1459.  
To refer a pediatric heart patient, call 706-721-8522 or FAX 706-721-1459.
John W. Thornton, III, MD
Cardiology
Director of Coronary Critical Care
Clinical Interests: Heart Failure, Acute Coronary Syndromes, Sudden Cardiac Death

Cardiovascular Center Administrators

If you have questions or need additional information, our administrative team welcomes your inquiries.

Tom Wagner
Administrative Director
706-721-1118
twagner@mcg.edu

Marcia Frye, RN
Nurse Manager
706-721-2016
mfrye@mcg.edu

Judy Howard
Practice Site Manager
706-721-1692
jhoward@mcg.edu

Donna Posey, RN
Senior Staff Nurse
706-721-8937
dposey@mcg.edu

Training the Cardiologists of Tomorrow

The MCGHealth Cardiovascular Center sponsors both residency and fellowship programs designed to educate the highly skilled cardiovascular specialists needed to treat future generations of patients in our community and around the world.

To refer an adult heart patient, call 706-721-2426 or FAX 706-721-1459.
To refer a pediatric heart patient, call 706-721-8522 or FAX 706-721-1459.

mcghealth.org/cardio 706-721-2426
MCGHealth Cardiovascular Center Location

MCGHealth Cardiovascular Center
1003 Chafee Avenue
Augusta, GA 30912
706-721-2426

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To refer an adult heart patient, call 706-721-2426 or FAX 706-721-1459.
To refer a pediatric heart patient, call 706-721-8522 or FAX 706-721-1459.