

Advanced Fetal Care Center

What to Expect



The Advanced Fetal Care Center (AFCC) at Boston Children's Hospital provides diagnosis, ongoing screening and care for mothers carrying babies with confirmed or suspected congenital anomalies. Our expansive experience in fetal care has shown that the earlier an anomaly can be correctly diagnosed, the greater a baby's chances of experiencing optimal development and health. Using advanced diagnostic tools, groundbreaking surgical and medical treatments and supportive care, our fetal specialists are increasing the chances of survival and the quality of life for many newborns. We offer compassionate care and support that extends throughout childhood — from prenatal diagnosis and counseling, through treatment and long-term follow-up.

Here's what to expect once you have been referred to the AFCC.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

You or your obstetrician will be asked to fax medical information to us at **617-730-0302** for review, including demographic and insurance information. After we receive your referral, our administrative associate will process your records and assign you to a member of our clinical team. We also recommend that you check with your insurance plan to begin the process on any approvals that may be needed.

ON THE PHONE

A member of the AFCC team will then review all information and contact you to do a clinical intake that includes obtaining additional history, assessing your understanding of the health problem, answering your questions and offering support and reassurance. Additionally, they will order all appropriate diagnostic testing and counseling sessions.

Our scheduling team will make every attempt to schedule imaging studies and appointments in a timely fashion to best meet your needs during this difficult time. However, please keep in mind that this process requires in-depth clinical expertise and may necessitate multiple calls before your first appointment.

AT THE OFFICE

We will conduct all necessary studies of your baby (ultrasound, MRI or echocardiogram) in the AFCC clinic. It can make for a very long day. Families tell us, however, that they would rather spend a long day and receive all the information, than have to return a second day for feedback.

Plans for your day can change. We set a schedule for you based on the information we receive before your visit. Sometimes we add or subtract studies or consultants. Sometimes we shift the order of your day because of uncooperative babies or availability of imaging. Be assured that we will complete everything we need in order to give you the information you need, and appointments with consultants will be adjusted to allow for completion of necessary studies. If you have been waiting more than 15 minutes past your scheduled appointment without an explanation, please speak to the front desk staff.

You will receive information in several ways. We will teach you about normal development of a baby at your current stage of pregnancy. A consultant will then discuss your baby's findings, and talk about any required care or impact on quality of life. During this consult we will take notes so you can listen. At the end of the day you will leave with notes from your consults and teaching sheets about your baby's findings.

You will meet a team. Throughout the day you may meet several members of our team: doctors, nurses, a genetic counselor and a social worker. We work together not only to educate you, but also to support you in coping with this experience and any decisions you may need to make. This team approach ensures a comprehensive care plan built on the collaborative involvement of our pediatric experts and ongoing communication with you and your primary obstetric team. The AFCC also works closely with Harvard area hospitals, along with many local and non-local obstetricians and maternal fetal medicine specialists. No matter which of our specialists you see, a staff member from the AFCC will be with you every step of the way, attending appointments with you, and coordinating your care throughout this process.

CONTACT US

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