NEW CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
Excellence in care

BEST MEDICAL CARE IN THE WORLD FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

New Children’s Hospital opened its doors in September 2018.

New Children’s Hospital is the leading provider of specialized health care for pediatric patients in Finland. The hospital acts as the main provider of specialized health care for children living in the Helsinki region.

The story of how the hospital came to be is extraordinary. A support foundation, New Children’s Hospital Foundation, was formed with the noble goal of building new facilities for a children’s hospital that would provide the best available medical care for children and adolescents from all over the country. The project gained a great amount of publicity and it quickly became important to almost everyone in Finland.

The fundraising began in February 2013 and the total amount of donations amassed was nearly 40 million euros. The hospital has also received donations in the form of building material, technology, medical furniture, and art.

Families and children participated in the development of New Children’s Hospital. Family advisory councils shared their views on digital services and the patient rooms in the intensive care unit and at the wards, for example. An adolescent panel gave their opinion on development work and the implementation of treatment and examinations.

New Children’s Hospital was awarded with the Finlandia Prize for Architecture in 2018. The justification for the prize highlighted the hospital’s humane approach, state of the art technology, and unique architecture.

“Children have been gifted a hospital where every detail is carefully considered with their recovery and well-being in mind.” Forensic Odontologist Helena Ranta in her justification for the prize.

DEVELOPER: Uusi Lastesairaala Tukisäätiö (New Children’s Hospital Foundation)

MAIN CONTRACTOR: SRV Construction Ltd

PROJECT MANAGEMENT: Haahtelakoulu rakennuttaminen Oy

FUNDING: Fundraising profits, and funding from the state and the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS)

ARCHITECTS: SARC Architects Inc. Architect Group Reino Koivula Inc
WORLD-CLASS MEDICAL EXPERTISE

New Children’s Hospital treats all pediatric illnesses.

In Finland, the treatment of several demanding pediatric illnesses, especially cardiac surgery, organ transplantations, treatment of complicated cancers and allogeneic stem cell transplantations, is centralized to New Children’s Hospital. All children in need of specialized health care in the Helsinki region are treated by the same organization. Among the illnesses treated are serious infections, intestinal infections, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, and epilepsy.

The hospital treats patients from newborns to 15-year-olds, and some patients continue in our care beyond the age of 15. Our smallest patients are preterm babies weighing less than 500 g at birth. Patients come to us from all over the country, and also from abroad, for example, from Estonia.

In Finland, the most extensive medical expertise, research and development of treatments available for several rare diseases is centralized to Helsinki University Hospital. Such rare diseases include, for example, biliary atresia or mitochondrial metabolic diseases. We also offer our services to other hospitals by providing a nationwide pediatric neurological on-call service, ECMO treatments and ECMO transport, among other services.
• 800 nurses
• 300 doctors
• 200 specialist staff members

100 children visit the largest pediatric emergency department in Finland daily, which amounts to 40,000 visits yearly.

100 children spend the night at the four inpatient wards of the hospital.

30 surgeries are performed every day.

300 patients have appointments at the outpatient clinics daily.

Appointment schedulers make 20,000 surgery and inpatient ward bookings yearly.

The majority of patients in New Children’s Hospital are very young. Over half of the inpatients are under the age of three.

• Of the patients receiving intensive care, 23% are under the age of one month, and 28% are less than a year old.

• 70% of children who undergo cardiac surgery are less than a year old.
Tove Jansson’s art from Moomin books is present all around the hospital: starting from the basement, the images create a journey from the ocean floor to the beach, and up towards space.

The floors of New Children’s Hospital take their inspiration from nature. A story and theme have been chosen for each floor and they are reflected in the colors, signs, wall paintings, and quotes on the walls.

The hospital has

- 140 beds
- 12 intensive care beds,
  4 beds for intensive monitoring
- 2 intensive care beds for special needs patients,
- 27 neonatal intensive care beds near the delivery rooms in Women’s Hospital
- 8 operating rooms,
  3 ambulatory operating rooms,
  a cardiac catheterisation laboratory
- 3 first-aid beds,
- 12 monitoring beds,
- 3 isolation beds, and 4 beds for resting
- 68 examination rooms for appointments
- Laboratory, CT-scan, X-ray, ultrasound, MRI, gait analysis laboratory, and video-EEG
A HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The well-being and equality of patients and families are the cornerstones of our operation.

Families can stay together in New Children’s Hospital. Parents can participate in all activities and enter all facilities 24/7. A parent can spend nights in the child’s room at the ward. When in the Operating and Anesthesia Unit, the parent can stay in the operating room with the child until the child is under anaesthesia. The hospital offers a lounge and resting rooms for parents.

Our aim in the new hospital is to keep hospital stays for children and their families as short as possible. Nearly all patients arrive to surgery directly from home and the number of ambulatory surgeries has increased. The average hospital stay is three to four days. The emergency department has beds for monitoring to reduce the need for inpatient care.

The quality of our family-centred care is regularly measured and developed towards achieving a world-class level. The family advisory council consisting of parents of our patients parents will allow us to see things from the family’s point of view when developing the hospital and our practices.

Families can give feedback on every visit and we use this feedback to develop our operation.

“...very quickly. The pediatrician happened to be very nice, very knowledgeable and got along great with kids. Our visit to the New Children’s Hospital was a really pleasant experience once again. Thank you so much!” Feedback from a family.
The hospital clothes are adorned with a Sea Owl character designed by children.

Recreation

THE HEALING POWER OF ART AND PLAY

Play has a significant role in childhood development as well as in recovery.

The hospital offers several fascinating places to explore. The entrance floor’s lobby has an interactive media wall and a large marine aquarium. For the first time ever in Finland, a calming sound environment was designed for the hospital. Visitors in the waiting area can listen to a soundscapes inspired by the Moomin stories – exotic hoots from the jungle or ethereal songs from outer space.

The hospital holds 15 works of art funded by two foundations. The artworks are situated around the hospital: in the lobby, the intensive care unit, and surgical ward, among other places. Art can also be found outside the hospital. A multicultural chapel is open to everyone in need of some quiet time regardless of religion.

The hospital has a Play and Activity Unit where kindergarten teachers and pediatric practical nurses organize activities for children and adolescents who are inpatients in the hospital. Additionally, every floor has a playroom for the kids to enjoy. A hospital school allows children to continue their education during a long inpatient stay.

Our partners, such as The Association of Friends of the University Children’s Hospitals and The Hospital Clowns, organize events and bring joy to the patients and their families. The OLKA support center coordinates activities run by organisations and volunteers in the hospital. Trained volunteers will read, sing, and play music to the children. The library makes sure that there is always something new to read at the wards.
Research and education are at the heart of activities in New Children’s Hospital.

The hospital is a teaching hospital, which means that teaching is present in the treatment and examination of our small patients.

Several fascinating national and international research projects are currently underway in the university hospital. Previous Finnish success stories in medicine include developing the treatment of preterm babies, diabetes research, research on infectious diseases and vaccinations, and modelling diseases with the help of stem cell research and cell models.

Helsinki University Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Helsinki are inseparable in research and education. The Pediatric Research Center operates in between the hospital and the university and promotes the research of pediatric illnesses, teaching, and networking. The Pediatric Research Center represents 30 research groups that are currently focusing on pediatric medical research.

FINNPEMED (Finnish Investigators Network for Pediatric Medicines) aims to improve pediatric health by increasing research and development of new and safe pediatric medicines while trying to avoid any unnecessary trials in children.
The web portal Terveyskylä.fi makes access to services easier and improves information flow regarding the child’s illness.

Digital solutions

NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN THE HOSPITAL

Digital solutions are an integral part of modern medical care.

New technologies change the way illnesses are treated. Artificial intelligence speeds up the prediction and treatment of serious infections in preterm babies in intensive care. Physically disabled patients in need of demanding surgery can be examined in the gait analysis laboratory, which leads to significantly better treatment results. Analytics for examining a child patient’s movement are currently developed further so that analysis could be carried out at home. Video-EEG is used in variety of ways when planning surgery for epilepsy. New methods of cellular therapy enhance the treatment of malignant diseases and improve the prognoses of patients.

The data produced by our digital systems serves the hospital’s operation and management on multiple levels. The hospital has a service guidance and facilities management system to guide patients to the correct location with the help of an avatar the child can choose. With the help of location technology, the location and amount of equipment and supplies is easy to optimize in the hospital. An automated storage and retrieval system makes storage and availability of treatment supplies and equipment more efficient. A facilities management system oversees the efficient utilization of facilities.

The patients receive a tablet computer for the duration of their stay. The tablet is used to guide patients and their families, and familiar games and apps help the child feel safe and ensure that everyday life still continues while in hospital.
To guarantee our high quality status, we are applying for the international Magnet Hospital status and for Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation.

Future

HOSPITAL ADVANCEMENT

Excellent treatment results, expert staff, diverse research, and new top-of-the-line facilities make New Children’s Hospital a world-class hospital.

New Children’s Hospital is systematically managed and developed. All activities are based on medical research. The efficiency and cost-effectiveness of our practices, and the patient experience are considered in all activities.

Our goals are to expand the specialized health care services for children and adolescents both nationally and internationally, to deliver effective care in the best interest of the patient, and to offer our staff, researchers, and students an attractive work place.

Every year several of our doctors and nurses participate in training all over the world. New Children’s Hospital also trains foreign professionals.

New Children’s Hospital is part of an international community of children’s hospitals. Pediatric specialists participate in international research and collaboration networks. The hospital also works in close collaboration with many of the best children’s hospitals in the world. New Children’s Hospital is a member of the European Children’s Hospital Organization.
HUS Helsinki University Hospital provides specialized health care in general pediatrics, pediatric surgery, child neurology, and child psychiatry. HUS has been assigned national treatment responsibilities. In addition to those responsibilities, HUS treats a large number of patients with particularly severe illnesses from all over Finland.