The new, expanded Inova Children’s Hospital opened its doors in January 2016 and is the only dedicated children’s hospital in Northern Virginia. Beyond housing the region’s only Level 4 NICU and Pediatric ICU, Inova Children’s Hospital features a cardiac ICU, cardiac step-down unit, hematology/oncology unit and general medical/surgical unit. All patient rooms are private - designed with families in mind. An outdoor play park, parent lounges and play rooms on each floor, as well as a Ronald McDonald Family Room and a Ronald McDonald House on our Fairfax Campus further contribute to a more home-like setting for patients and families.

Inova Children’s Hospital Pediatric Ambulance and One Call Transport:

Caring for children is special – and transporting infants and children who may be critically ill requires special care. Our transport system has recently upgraded to a new Critical Care Ambulance, which can be configured to fit any combination of the following: two isolettes, two pediatric stretchers, one isolette and one stretcher, or transportation of up to 12 infants in case of emergency.

Equipped with leading-edge technology and dedicated pediatric and neonatal transport teams, this pediatric ambulance is built especially for kids. Inova Children’s Hospital’s One Call Center is available 24 hours a day for all admission, transfer and transport needs at 1.877.900.9543.

Learn more about the Inova Children’s Hospital ECMO Program at inovachildrens.org/ecmo
Inova Children’s Hospital is expanding their Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) program from support of patients with severe cardiac failure to newborns and children with respiratory or cardiac failure.

ECMO is a modified of cardiopulmonary bypass which can provide temporary support of both lungs, heart and other organs to patients who are failing conventional treatments. It has been used in over 75,000 patients, the majority are neonates with severe respiratory failure soon after birth. Success with these patients has led to expansion of ECMO support to older children and adults. Although Inova has supported children and neonates with heart disease and adults with ECMO, the service is expanding to include newborns outside of the congenital heart program, as well.

The team is led by Heidi Dalton, MD, Medical Director for Adult and Pediatric ECLS at Inova Fairfax Medical Campus. She is supported by neonatologists, pediatric surgeons, pediatric cardiac surgeons, pediatric intensivists, adult cardiac surgeons, adult cardiologists, adult pulmonologists and critical care physicians, and a team of perfusionists and ECMO specialists.

ECMO can be used to sustain the body while:
- Heart or lungs heal
- Heart or lungs are replaced (bridge or post-transplant)
- Heart is repaired (before or after cardiac surgery or as a bridge to a long term support device or transplant)
- Heart, lungs and other organs recover from severe infections or poisonings

About the Program

The neonatal ECMO program is a combined effort of the Neonatal and Pediatric ICU’s, housed in the newly expanded Inova Children’s Hospital. Our Level IV NICU has 108-beds and features private rooms where families and their baby (or babies) can be together. The NICU staff is comprised of more than 20 neonatologists, 10 neonatal nurse practitioners, and hundreds of highly trained nurses, allied health professionals and technicians. If an infant in respiratory or cardiac distress needs ECMO support, a combined team of neonatologists and pediatric critical care physicians are on hand 24/7 to provide this life-saving treatment. The team has more than 10 years of cardiac ECMO experience, supporting the congenital heart program’s most complex cases.

Meet Dr. Dalton

Heidi Dalton, MD, MCCM has been a leader in pediatric critical care and extracorporeal life support for more than 20 years. Dr. Dalton has authored over 100 peer-reviewed articles and numerous book chapters and invited reviews on extracorporeal life support, sepsis, respiratory failure and other critical care topics. She is a sought-after national and international speaker, provides program reviews to other centers, holds leadership positions within the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization and provides reviewer expertise to journals such as Critical Care Medicine, Lancet, Pediatrics, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine and Circulation, among others. Her current research focus is on elimination of bleeding and thrombotic complications during extracorporeal support and identification of predictors for mortality in ECMO patients.

Prior to joining Inova, Dr. Dalton served as the Chief of Critical Care and Director of ECLS at Phoenix Children’s Hospital, where she was also a Professor of Child Health at the University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix and Professor at the Barrow Neurologic Institute. Previously she held the role of Medical Director of the Pediatric ICU and Director of non-Neonatal ECMO at Children’s National Medical Center. Prior to her work at Children’s National Medical Center, she started the adult and pediatric ECMO programs at Georgetown University Hospital. Dr. Dalton was inducted as a Master of Critical Care by the American College of Critical Care Medicine and Society of Critical Care Medicine in 2014.

Dr. Dalton earned her undergraduate degree at Michigan State University, before attending medical school at Wayne State University. She completed her pediatric residency at Children’s National Medical Center and pediatric critical care fellowship at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.