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Boston Children's Hospital Joins OHF Care Center Network as a Leading Pediatric Center for Primary Hyperoxaluria

BOSTON, MA (March 3, 2025) - <u>Boston Children's Hospital</u> has been designated a <u>Care Center</u> by the <u>Oxalosis & Hyperoxaluria Foundation (OHF)</u>, the leading U.S. patient advocacy group for individuals with primary hyperoxaluria (PH), a rare genetic kidney disease. PH is caused by the liver's overproduction of oxalate, leading to recurrent kidney stones and, in severe cases like PH1, end-stage kidney failure requiring dialysis and kidney transplantation.

Boston Children's Hospital is the third institution to join the OHF Care Center Network, alongside the Mayo Clinic and the University of Alabama. More centers are expected to be added across the U.S. in 2025. As an OHF Care Center, Boston Children's Hospital will advance care, research, and awareness for pediatric PH patients and, when available, provide access to clinical trials.

As a designated Care Center, Boston Children's Hospital will uphold the latest clinical guidelines and best practices for diagnosis, treatment, and disease management.

"Our multi-disciplinary team—spanning nephrology, urology, cardiology, genetics, dialysis, transplant, social services, nutrition and research teams—ensures an integrated approach to patient care while also supporting families," said Dr. Michelle Baum, pediatric nephrologist at Boston Children's Hospital and lead physician of the Care Center team.

"Boston Children's Hospital has long been at the forefront of treating children with primary hyperoxaluria" she added. "With the advent of new treatments that can change the lives of PH patients, early diagnosis is critical. Receiving this designation as a Care Center reinforces our reputation as a Center of Excellence for diagnosing and treating primary hyperoxaluria. We are committed to staying at the forefront of technology for surgical treatment of stones: We are the first freestanding North American hospital to offer Thulium-fiber laser lithotripsy; we stock the narrowest ureteroscopes manufactured to treat our smallest patients; and we combine surgical cases with interventional radiologists to treat the most complex kidney stones in one session. We are one of the few pediatric centers with decades of expertise dialyzing and transplanting children with PH and are also unique with experience using the new PH treatments as part of these therapies."



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Due to the rarity and underdiagnosis of primary hyperoxaluria, patients often struggle to find experts—especially close to home. Boston Children's Hospital serves as a critical resource for children and families who live in the Northeast while also welcoming patients from across the country.

"We are thrilled to officially welcome Boston Children's Hospital into the OHF Care Center Network," said Kim Hollander, Executive Director of OHF. "They have a stellar reputation in pediatric PH care and research; joining this network strengthens their collaborative relationship with OHF, as well as with the Mayo Clinic and University of Alabama Care Centers."

As the OHF Care Center Network continues to expand, partnerships like the one with Boston Children's Hospital will help ensure that more patients receive timely diagnoses, specialized care, and access to the latest research. By bringing together experts and resources, the network is making significant strides in improving outcomes and quality of life for those affected by primary hyperoxaluria.

About OHF:

The Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation (OHF) is the world's largest private funder of hyperoxaluria research, dedicated to eliminating the disease. We break down barriers to ensure brighter futures for patients, prioritizing their needs while driving advancements in research, improving access to high-quality care, and empowering those affected.

Our vision: Working together to end hyperoxaluria.

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