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Maimonides Expands Brooklyn's Only Pediatric Emergency Department

For more than 50 years, [Maimonides Children's Hospital](#) has served Brooklyn's children and families with unparalleled emergency care, as the borough's sole children's hospital and only pediatric trauma center.

This fall, our newly renovated and expanded [Children's Emergency Department \(ED\)](#) will open on 48th Street and 10th Avenue. This will be the only standalone children's ED in the borough and will be located in a modernized space with brand-new equipment to ensure all children in our community receive the best care possible for any emergency condition. From fevers and injuries to allergic reactions and asthma, our team is here to provide the best lifesaving care in a revitalized setting—24 hours a day, 7 days a week—for our borough's more than 600,000 children.

Expanded Space for the Most Effective Care

The new Children's ED will quadruple the current pediatric emergency space, expanding to an impressive 18,650 square feet, with 32 treatment rooms.

"The updated ED supports our team in setting a new standard for pediatric emergency care here in Brooklyn," says [Alex Arroyo, MD](#), Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Maimonides. "Building this new facility has allowed us to intentionally redesign the emergency care experience

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to meet the unique needs of our children and adolescent patients, with quality of care, patient experience, and efficient team workflows in mind.”

Enhanced Treatment Capabilities

The new ED features state-of-the-art therapies and diagnostic imaging with multiple modalities, all available on-site for rapid diagnosis and treatment of emergency conditions. These include:

- **Resuscitation rooms:** Equipped with the latest technology, these rooms will provide a setting for immediate care for critically ill or injured children, ensuring that they receive the best possible treatment right away, with the latest lifesaving equipment.
- **Triage rooms:** Designed for quick assessment and prioritization of patients, these rooms will help streamline the modified triage process, allowing for faster treatment.
- **X-ray room:** The inclusion of a dedicated X-ray room will facilitate immediate imaging services, reducing the need for patients to be transported to other areas of the hospital for diagnostic imaging.
- **Ultrasound and CT:** Our team has extensive expertise in emergency ultrasound and CT imaging to diagnose a range of conditions, including traumatic injuries and respiratory abnormalities. Utilizing point-of-care ultrasound, Maimonides ED physicians gain real-time information easily, at any time of day, without need for patient transport around the hospital.
- **Dedicated trauma rooms:** As Brooklyn’s only pediatric trauma center designated by the New York State Department of Health, we’ve met selective standards of care established by the American College of Surgeons’ Committee on Trauma. Our expert pediatric critical care physicians and surgeons are highly experienced in treating children and adolescents for a wide range of traumatic injuries.

Creating a Patient-Centered Experience

The larger facility will accommodate more patients and provide a more comfortable environment for families during what can be among the most stressful times of their lives. Achieving focused care and faster throughput is a major priority as the pediatric emergency care teams transition to the new space. To enhance care provision and reduce wait times alongside the increase in patient capacity, ED leaders are implementing pre-arrival registration, allowing families or

referring providers to complete necessary paperwork before arriving. The design of the department includes a dedicated walk-in entrance and street-level drop-off area, along with a separate ambulance entrance and intake area to streamline access for both families and emergency medical services.

The ED will function around a dual-track flow, which splits patient volumes into a low-acuity zone and a high-acuity zone. In the low-acuity zone, patients will be rapidly assessed using a clinical team approach, with orders implemented immediately. This workflow prioritizes patient safety and comfort while utilizing the appropriate physical space for their condition, ultimately enhancing the overall experience for families during their time in the Children’s ED.

“Our emergency medicine programs, both adult and pediatric, are among the busiest in the city and the state,” says [Eitan Dickman, MD](#), Chair of Emergency Medicine at Maimonides. “Serving this many patients is not without challenges, but this redesign marks a significant advancement in the level of care we are able to offer to our communities. This will more than double our ED space across the adult and pediatric divisions. Along with our recent psychiatric emergency department renovations, these updates are key to ensuring our patients have the adequate emergency care facilities that our growing population needs and deserves.”

Maimonides also provides several outcome-focused services to children and families during and after hospitalization. To ensure individualized attention, our full-time Pediatric Hospitalist Program is led by board-certified pediatricians who coordinate care programs based on each child and their unique needs. Additionally, our [Child Life, Creative Arts, and Education Program specialists](#) support the emotional, social, and developmental needs of children experiencing stress due to hospitalization and medical procedures. The medical center has received a grant to outfit a special sensory room in the new Children’s ED, which will help make visits more comfortable and reduce stress for children who may benefit from increased or reduced stimuli.

Our providers are also well-versed in caring for Brooklyn families across the many rich cultures represented in the borough, offering language assistance services, religious services, and diverse meal options. ED physicians, staff, and volunteers speak many languages widely spoken in southern Brooklyn, including English, Spanish, Russian, Yiddish, Arabic, Chinese, and more.

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Simplified, Coordinated Care Across Specialties

Our team of board-certified pediatric emergency medicine physicians, surgeons, nurses, and support staff are specially trained to handle the unique challenges of pediatric emergencies. Patients also benefit from the collective expertise of Brooklyn's only children's hospital, home to a wide range of specialists across [more than 30 subspecialties](#). Maimonides Children's Hospital includes Brooklyn's largest [pediatric and neonatal intensive care units](#), the borough's only [cancer center](#) that is part of the national Children's Oncology Group, and our pediatric cardiology program that is accredited by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission in fetal and pediatric echocardiography.

"The spectrum of inpatient and outpatient services we offer at Maimonides Children's Hospital is unmatched in Brooklyn," says [Jeffrey Avner, MD](#), Chair of Pediatrics at Maimonides. "When patients require more than just acute care, whether it be inpatient admission or outpatient follow-up care, our pediatric teams work together to simplify the care process and deliver the best outcomes, close to home."

Partnering with Primary Care Providers

Collaboration with patients' regular doctors is also a key part of the Children's Hospital and the Children's ED.

We recognize the importance of coordinated care and communication, especially when ongoing specialized treatment is needed.

"We know that emergency care is one link in a child's overall health, and it is most effective when patients have the counsel and follow-up care of a family doctor or trusted specialist who knows them well," says Dr. Avner. "We look forward to working closely with our partners in care across the community to ensure that every child receives the care they need to flourish in the long term."

Our team of pediatric specialists encourages referring providers to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding patient care.

Equipped with the latest diagnostic and therapeutic technologies, expanded space, and providers who are committed to serving children with the highest quality of care, Maimonides is poised to become an even more essential link in the chain of pediatric medical care available in Brooklyn. We look forward to welcoming patients and families this fall. 

Learn more at maimo.org/peds-ed or call 718-283-7500.

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New Multispecialty Pavilion in Clinton Hill

This month, Maimonides is opening a new state-of-the-art multispecialty center in downtown Brooklyn. Maimonides Doctors Clinton Hill Pavilion is a new one-stop-shop for multispecialty care offering unparalleled convenience for Brooklynites who live and work in the area.



Three Practices Under One Roof

Located at the corner of Vanderbilt and Atlantic Avenues, the pavilion brings together more than 35 Maimonides doctors and advanced practice providers who offer comprehensive care across three medical practices:

- **Maimonides Doctors Sunrise Medical Group**
- **Maimonides Obstetrics and Gynecology and Women's Health** (formerly Brooklyn Heights Women's Center)
- **Maimonides Multispecialty Care**
With 16 medical specialties at Clinton Hill Pavilion, patients benefit from integrated care and one-stop convenience to diagnose and treat a wide range of conditions, all with the backing of Brooklyn's largest health system.

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Comprehensive Services

At Maimonides Doctors Clinton Hill Pavilion, our care teams are committed to providing a wide array of services to meet the diverse healthcare needs of the community.

[Maimonides Doctors Sunrise Medical Group](#), led by [Ronald Dailey, MD](#), and [Jedidiah Burack, MD](#), has been serving Brooklyn families with primary care services since 1995. The Sunrise team focuses on preventive health, chronic disease management, and routine check-ups, as well as treatment of acute illnesses like non-emergency infections or injuries. They host a number of Maimonides specialists who do sessional time in their space, including [gastroenterologists](#), [endocrinologists](#), [cardiologists](#), [urologists](#), and more, coordinating care for chronic and acute conditions.

Maimonides Obstetrics and Gynecology and Women's Health, led by [Millicent Comrie, MD](#), offers a full spectrum of services with an emphasis on health throughout a woman's life, from [routine gynecological exams](#) to [prenatal and postnatal care](#), family planning, and [menopause](#) care, as well as gynecologic abnormalities like uterine bleeding, [endometriosis](#), and [fibroids](#). The practice's team of experienced specialists provide patients with compassionate care tailored to their unique needs.

Maimonides Multispecialty Care offers consultations, diagnostic testing, and minimally invasive procedures across medical and [surgical specialties](#). Our team is dedicated to providing high-quality care in a range of specialties, including [bariatric/weight loss surgery](#), [general surgery](#), [urologic surgery](#), [neurosurgery](#), [colorectal surgery](#), [breast surgery](#), [thoracic surgery](#), [vascular surgery](#), [pediatric surgery](#),

[otolaryngology](#), with more to come.

Maimonides surgeons are renowned for providing top-quality care, utilizing the latest techniques and technologies to ensure optimal outcomes.

Advanced Facilities, Exceptional Patient Experience

Clinton Hill Pavilion is outfitted with the latest state-of-the-art equipment in a modern setting. The practice suites are located in a brand-new building, and include 43 examination rooms, a surgical procedure room, a vascular lab with two ultrasound bays, OB/GYN imaging including ultrasound, and cardiac diagnostics including electrocardiogram, echocardiogram, and vital signs monitors. Routine medical tests, like blood testing, urine analysis, and rapid strep and Covid-19 testing, are done on site. Specimens requiring complex testing are coordinated by our teams for patients' convenience.

The pavilion is designed with patient comfort in mind, with spacious waiting areas filled with natural light and private examination rooms that help patients feel secure and supported throughout their visit. The pavilion is convenient for patients in downtown Brooklyn, close to dense residential areas, public transit, public parking garages, and on-street parking, and is fully accessible for people with physical and sensory disabilities.

Expanding Healthcare in Central Brooklyn

Maimonides Doctors Clinton Hill Pavilion represents a significant investment in the health and well-being of the central Brooklyn community.

"At Maimonides, we take pride in bringing high-quality healthcare within reach for all Brooklynites," says Ken Gibbs, President and CEO of Maimonides Health. "In Clinton Hill and the surrounding neighborhoods, there is a growing population and a growing demand for primary and specialty care. This new facility brings the expertise of Maimonides as Brooklyn's premier destination for care



Millicent Comrie, MD, Maimonides Obstetrics and Gynecology and Women's Health

to a convenient location for more of the borough's residents, with the goal of promoting health throughout more Brooklyn communities."

"We're not only growing as a health system, but we're raising the bar for the care available to Brooklynites, in terms of quality, experience, and convenience," says John Marshall, MD, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Maimonides Health. "We are thrilled to be welcoming new and returning patients here in this new setting in Clinton Hill, and we look forward to continuing to expand services and capabilities here in the future." 

Learn more or refer a patient, visit [Maimonides Doctors Clinton Hill Pavilion](#).

Breast Reinnervation Helps Restore Feeling to Mastectomy Patients

Breast reinnervation procedures now available at [Maimonides Breast Center](#) offer patients undergoing mastectomy the possibility of restored breast sensation post-surgery and further enhance Maimonides' reputation as Brooklyn's only accredited comprehensive breast center.

"Really, this is life-changing because previously, we've reconstructed the breast for appearance only," says plastic surgeon [Nima Patel, MD](#). "Now, it's not only about how patients look—it's about potentially helping them feel more like their former selves. It helps some of our patients feel a little more whole again."

Research shows up to 60% of women who have breast cancer surgery report feeling pain and/or numbness following their operation¹. For many, the loss of sensation that comes with mastectomy and breast reconstruction is both unexpected and troubling. It's an ongoing reminder of their diagnosis and what they've been through. And it can hinder their ability to move forward.

Reinnervation may change that. It uses the patient's nerves or, when necessary, a commercial allograft. It was first performed at Maimonides last year by [Lloyd Gayle, MD](#), chief of [plastic surgery](#), and is now routinely offered to patients who qualify.

Evolving Nerve Grafting Techniques in Breast Reconstruction

Nerve grafting in general is not new; there's a well-established history of repairing certain nerves in other areas of the body to improve feeling and functional recovery. Nerve grafting within breast reconstruction surgery, however, is a newly developing practice.

"The traditional approach for providing sensation to another area meant that we would have to sacrifice a nerve from someplace else in the body," says Dr. Gayle. "Often, we'd go to the lower extremity to harvest the saphenous or sural nerve. With that transfer came numbness in the lateral aspect of the foot to restore sensation to another location, which would also scar the extremity.

"Now, we can take a product off the shelf and use it as a viable nerve graft to basically splice that nerve into the defect created when you perform the mastectomy.

So, no donor site, no additional scar, and no secondary numbness in the foot or elsewhere from harvesting the nerve."

Coordinated Surgical Approach

During routine mastectomies, surgeons typically cut branches of the intercostal nerves that provide sensation. Reinnervation requires that the breast surgeon and plastic surgeon work in tandem.

"In this case, when the breast surgeon removes the breast, they are careful to save some of the nerves," says Dr. Patel. "Then the plastic surgery team goes in. Before they start the reconstruction, they dissect out the saved nerves. If a nerve



is long enough and the surgeon can stitch it directly to the nipple, they will. If it's not, they use an allograft."

Surgeons can perform the procedure with autologous and implant-based reconstruction. Recovery for patients is about the same as it would be if they had a mastectomy alone, according to Dr. Patel.

Nerves typically regenerate at about 1 millimeter per day, and there are recommended sensory retraining exercises for patients to promote optimal outcomes. However, results are not guaranteed. If sensation returns, it's unlikely to be exactly as it was before surgery, but many patients note significant improvement.

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Eligibility and Clinical Considerations

There are several criteria for selecting appropriate patients. First, they have to be a candidate for nipple-preserving mastectomy. Second, surgeons will confirm that patients have a desire to preserve nipple sensation using surgical methods.

While it's common for patients to want breast reconstruction after a mastectomy, many are not concerned about keeping physical sensation. According to Dr. Gayle, maintaining nipple sensation post-mastectomy is a priority for about one-third of patients.

A third key factor is the patient's age. Typically, after age 70, the procedure is far less effective than at younger ages because nerve regeneration occurs at a much slower rate.

Building the Evidence Through Research

When breast reinnervation is appropriate for patients and they desire the procedure, Maimonides is one of a select number of breast centers that can perform it.

"There is a learning curve," says Dr. Patel. Expertise in breast reconstruction and microsurgery is essential, and Drs. Patel and Gayle have both.

At this point, patients have positive anecdotal reports about the procedure, but long-term results are unknown, since the procedure is new and results take time to become apparent.

Doctors are developing an Institutional Review Board-approved study to quantitatively and qualitatively assess the degree of sensory return in patients undergoing breast reinnervation at Maimonides.

In the meantime, the belief that sensation may return is proving to be uplifting for patients when they're planning treatment and facing numerous challenges. After their mastectomy and reconstruction, the anticipation of sensation returning may have a positive emotional impact, according to Dr. Gayle.

Reinnervation is yet another example of Maimonides' efforts to provide leading-edge care for the people it cares for.

"It's a very good adjunct to the many treatments and techniques we offer patients at the Breast Center," says Dr. Gayle. "It all goes to providing the best service that we can to the patients we care for here in Brooklyn." 

For more information or to refer a patient, visit [Maimonides Breast Center](#) or call 718-765-2550.

1. Lindau ST, Pinkerton EA, Abramssohn EM, Fuller CM, Grubb D, Mendoza T, Siston AK. Importance of Breast Sensation After Mastectomy: Evidence from Three Sources. *Womens Health Rep (New Rochelle)*. 2023 Dec 4;4(1):594-602. doi: 10.1089/whr.2023.0106. PMID: 38099078; PMCID: PMC10719638.

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First Women's Neurology Center in New York City

Maimonides Health has announced its new Women's Neurology Center, a comprehensive specialty [neurology](#) and [OB/GYN](#) care practice with a focus on women's unique neurologic needs throughout their lifespan. The center is the first of its kind in the five boroughs—providing individualized neurologic care for women of all ages with a special focus on the most metabolically active periods in a woman's



life. Our expert teams of neurologists and women's health care providers have established a care model informed by emerging knowledge of these key links to women's neurologic and overall health.

Stroke and Neurological Conditions are Women's Health Issues

One in five women will have a stroke at some point in their lifetime, and stroke is the third most prevalent cause of death of women in the United States¹. Many providers are aware that stroke often presents differently in women compared to traditional signs and symptoms, but the neurologic differences between women and men go much deeper. Women generally face poorer outcomes after strokes². Some women's

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health conditions, like [pregnancy](#), [menopause](#) (especially early menopause and certain menopause symptoms), preeclampsia, [endometriosis](#), and migraine with aura, present an elevated risk for stroke. And aside from stroke, chronic neurologic conditions like [multiple sclerosis](#) and migraine are three to four times more common in women than in men^{3,4}.

Within the medical community, women's neurologic health is increasingly being considered as a unique women's health issue, influencing the quality of care women receive for preventive care as well as acute and chronic condition treatment.

Led by [Susanna O'Kula, MD](#), a Maimonides neurologist, and [Rodney McLaren, MD](#), director of [Maternal-Fetal Medicine](#) Ambulatory Services, Maimonides' Women's Neurology Center aims to go beyond stroke recognition, identifying, addressing, and preventing conditions that put women at risk for stroke and adverse neurological events.

"It's not a new field, but the unique factors influencing women's neurologic health are becoming more widely recognized," says Dr. McLaren.

"The impact of hormones like estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone on the female brain is very complex, and we're just beginning to discover many of these relationships," says Dr. O'Kula. "As we gain more and more knowledge in this area, we're learning that there are many ways to optimize women's neurological health across the lifespan. Additionally, many chronic neurological conditions like migraines, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, and myasthenia gravis affect women longitudinally. So it's very important for OB/GYNs and neurologists to approach these issues collaboratively and ensure that there are no gaps in care that can exacerbate these issues or leave them unaddressed."

Expert Care for Every Patient and Concern

The Women's Neurology Center is designed for all women with neurologic concerns, whether they have already been diagnosed or are looking for answers about concerning symptoms.

Most critically, specialists at the center cater to the needs of women during medically intense periods in their lives, like pregnancy and menopause.

"During pregnancy or menopause, latent neurologic conditions may be 'unmasked,' and existing conditions may be exacerbated," says Dr. McLaren. "For women with existing neurological conditions, it's especially important to engage in comprehensive care before these periods or as soon as they become apparent. For those who notice neurologic symptoms for the first time during these periods, rapid connection with a specialist can make a great difference in outcomes."

For patients who are pregnant, or considering or planning pregnancy, Maimonides specialists offer preconception counseling, comprehensive prenatal care, and postpartum care. Neurologic diagnostic technologies include MRI, EEG, EMG, labs, and epilepsy gene panels.

In general, symptoms like changes in memory, mood changes, increased depression or anxiety, seizures, episodes where patients feel that they have inexplicably zoned out or lost time, and unilateral weakness or numbness could signal that patients require the attention of a specialist.

If patients are not yet seeing a neurologist with expertise in their condition, Women's Neurology Center providers can help patients establish longitudinal care to monitor neurological health after pregnancy or the onset of menopause.

Conditions treated at the center include, but are not limited to:

- Epilepsy and seizure disorders
- Migraine and other headache syndromes
- Neurovascular diseases
- Multiple sclerosis
- Myasthenia gravis
- Genetic conditions
- Brain fog, memory issues, and Alzheimer's disease

Deep Expertise in an Array of Specialty Areas

The center's combined team of specialists elevates the quality of care delivered to patients, bringing multiple specialties together for ease of access.

The center's neurology team has extensive subspecialty expertise in several areas, including neuroimmunology, neurovascular health, [headache medicine](#), and [neuromuscular health](#). On the women's health side, specialists include OB/GYNs, maternal-fetal medicine

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specialists, [obstetric and gynecologic surgeons](#), and menopausal health experts, as well as reproductive health social workers.

For additional concerns and comorbid conditions, patients benefit from the wide expertise in Maimonides' specialty care network, including [cardiovascular specialists](#), [neurosurgeons](#), [geriatricians](#), [general surgeons](#), [primary care providers](#), and [physical and occupational therapists](#). Our collaborative approach means patients can get all the advanced care they need right in Brooklyn.

An Individualized Approach

As the center begins welcoming patients, Dr. O'Kula and Dr. McLaren emphasize their commitment to health equity in this woman-focused center for care.

"Historically, women's concerns and pain have often been dismissed, particularly when we think about different ethnicities and socioeconomic strata," says Dr. O'Kula. "Trying to improve equity in this dimension of healthcare, as we serve a diverse patient population, is central to our mission."

To achieve this, the center's priorities include helping patients address their concerns promptly, and guiding referring providers in helping their patients connect with this vital health resource.

"This is an incredibly dynamic center, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to this kind of care, especially considering that this particular field of medicine is continuously growing and developing," said Dr. McLaren.

Additionally, Dr. McLaren and Dr. O'Kula look forward to continuing Maimonides' academic leadership in the fields of neurology and OB/GYN care. Seminars and conferences like the annual [Brooklyn Stroke Symposium](#), [Maimonides Neurology Symposium](#), and Maimonides Maternal and Neonatal Morbidity Reduction Symposium draw experts in their respective fields each year from across the United States and the globe. The Women's Neurology Center team aspires to leverage its unique care model and expertise to further this approach to women's neurologic health care, helping physicians, surgeons, care providers, trainees, and students stay on the cutting edge of this emerging discipline.

For more information or to refer a patient, call 718-283-7470 (Neurology) or 718-283-7979 (OB/GYN/Women's Health). 

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2. Xu, Min, Adriana Amarilla Vallejo, Clara Cantalapiedra Calvete, Anthony Rudd, Charles Wolfe, Matthew D.L. O'Connell, and Abdel Douiri. "Stroke Outcomes in Women: A Population-Based Cohort Study." *Stroke* AHA 53, no. 10 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1161/STROKEAHA.121.037829>.
3. National Multiple Sclerosis Society. 2023. "Women with MS." Last modified October 2023. <https://www.nationalmssociety.org/understanding-ms/what-is-ms/who-gets-ms/women-with-ms>.
4. Rossi MF, Tumminello A, Marconi M, Gualano MR, Santoro PE, Malorni W, Moscato U. Sex and gender differences in migraines: a narrative review. *Neurol Sci*. 2022 Sep;43(9):5729-5734. doi: 10.1007/s10072-022-06178-6. Epub 2022 Jun 8. PMID: 35676560; PMCID: PMC9176156.

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Brooklyn's Only Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutic Endoscopy Center

Staffed by board-certified [gastroenterologists](#), Maimonides Health's [Endoscopy Center](#) offers Brooklyn's physicians and residents the full spectrum of state-of-the-art advanced endoscopic services—all from the comfort of an easily accessible, Brooklyn-based facility.

Outfitted with the latest equipment and six dedicated procedure rooms, the modern facility sits across the street from Maimonides Medical Center. An underground pedestrian walkway conveniently connects the two facilities.



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The center is the only site in Brooklyn focused exclusively on providing both routine and highly specialized endoscopic diagnostic procedures and treatments.

“Previously, many of these advanced services were not available in Brooklyn because they require very specific expertise,” says [Ali Siddiqui, MD](#), Director of Endoscopy at Maimonides.

Multifaceted Endoscopic Expertise

Led by a team of expert endoscopists, Maimonides Endoscopy Center is fully equipped to meet patients’ complete endoscopic needs. Services can support patients dealing with a range of medical issues, from acid reflux disease, bile duct stones, or pancreatitis to gastroparesis and gastrointestinal (GI) cancers.

On-site providers include Dr. Siddiqui, an internationally respected interventional endoscopist who has written more than 350 articles and 11 books on advanced endoscopy. [Yasutoshi Shiratori, MD](#), an advanced endoscopist, specializes in therapeutic endoscopy treatments for GI cancers.

Drawing on Dr. Siddiqui’s and Dr. Shiratori’s rich expertise together with the other GI faculty, the Endoscopy Center offers a full range of minimally invasive gastrointestinal diagnostic endoscopic services, such as:

- Colonoscopy
- Endoscopic ultrasound (EUS)
- Enteroscopy
- Esophagoscopy
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy
- Small bowel and double balloon enteroscopy
- Upper gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy (EGD)
- Sedation-free, noninvasive video capsule evaluation of the small intestine
- Sedation-free, noninvasive video capsule evaluation of the esophagus and stomach: one of only a few centers around the country to offer this procedure

Center staff also offer a full range of highly specialized, minimally invasive treatments using endoscopic techniques, including:

- **EndoCinch endoluminal gastroplication (ELGP)** for treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) symptoms
- **Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)** for bile duct or pancreatic stent placement
- **Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD), endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR), and endoscopic full-thickness resection (eFTR)** to remove precancerous and cancerous growths from the GI tract
- **Peroral endoscopic myotomy (POEM)** for treatment of GI motility disorders, including esophageal POEM (E-POEM) to treat dysphagia and achalasia, gastric POEM (G-POEM) to treat gastroparesis, and Zenker’s diverticulum POEM (Z-POEM)
- **EndoFLIP (Functional Lumen Imaging Probe)** to diagnose esophageal motility disorders, is also available in conjunction with E-POEM
- **EUS-guided fine-needle cytology** to sample and stage lesions of the GI tract
- **Gastroscoy** for foreign body removal
- **Interventional endoscopic ultrasound (I-EUS)** for tissue biopsies, cyst drainage or targeted tumor treatments
- **Polypectomy** for colon polyp removal
- **Sclerotherapy** to control GI bleeding

Specialized GI Treatment Options

Because they are minimally invasive by nature—with most procedures using either no incisions or only very small ones—endoscopic procedures can unlock new treatment options for patients unable to tolerate standard surgeries.

“Endoscopic treatments offer a welcome alternative for patients too sick to be viable candidates for traditional surgery,” says Dr. Siddiqui.

As one of only a few dozen endoscopists practicing in the U.S. with specialty training in endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD)—the use of an endoscope to remove precancerous and cancerous growths—Dr. Shiratori’s expertise opens new GI cancer treatment pathways that were previously not widely available to Brooklyn residents.

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While ESD expertise is relatively common in Japan, where the technique originated, currently, only a handful of endoscopic centers in the U.S. have staff skilled in the procedure.

“Using ESD, we can precisely cut away and remove abnormal GI tissue, in one piece, without requiring the patient to face the complex incision and long recovery of a traditional abdominal surgery,” Dr. Shiratori says.

The minimally invasive advantages of endoscopic procedures are not limited to cancer patients. Dr. Siddiqui frequently utilizes his expertise in interventional endoscopic ultrasound (I-EUS) to treat bile duct or gall bladder obstructions in patients too ill for traditional surgeries, for example.

“Endoscopic procedures represent a feasible, less risky alternative to surgery, especially for very sick patients who would not be able to tolerate surgery,” he says.

To ensure Maimonides’ endoscopic care is accessible to all Brooklyn physicians and residents, the Endoscopy Center staff is equipped to provide seamless communication to all patients, including those whose native language is not English and those

who are deaf or hearing impaired. Endoscopy Center staff work collaboratively with Maimonides’ teams of other departmental specialists—including oncologists, radiologists, and surgeons. Together, they create comprehensive care plans that maximize each patient’s health outcomes.

Services at the Endoscopy Center expand upon and complement the innovative GI treatments available at Maimonides, including at the recently opened [Neurogastroenterology & Gastrointestinal Motility Center](#). The cutting-edge services available at both sites illustrate Maimonides’ commitment to creating invaluable health resources for Brooklyn, and providing the borough with accessible, world-class gastroenterological care. ■■■

To learn more or refer a patient, visit [Maimonides’ Endoscopy Center](#) or call (718) 283-7055. For more information on [Maimonides Gastroenterology](#) or to refer a patient, call (718) 283-5900.

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Maimonides Cancer Center, Brooklyn’s First Fully Accredited Cancer Center, Celebrates 20th Anniversary



[Maimonides Cancer Center](#) has announced the celebration of its first 20 years serving Brooklyn in the fight against cancer. Since its establishment in 2005 as Brooklyn’s first fully accredited cancer center, Maimonides has rapidly

expanded into a world-renowned center for cancer treatment, serving more than 30,000 patients each year across 18 oncology specialties.

For years, Maimonides has proudly stood at the forefront of cancer care in Brooklyn, bringing the most innovative, state-of-the-art technologies and treatments, groundbreaking research, and our patient-centered care model close to home for Brooklyn residents. Our center is committed to making high-quality cancer care accessible for all of the many diverse communities in and around Brooklyn, including those underserved by the health care system.

“If Brooklyn were its own city, its population of more than 2.7 million would place it among the top five in the United States, so it’s hard to imagine that 20 years ago, there was no dedicated cancer center here,” says [Dr. Patrick Borgen](#), who left Memorial Sloan Kettering to

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become the founder and director of the [Maimonides Breast Cancer Program](#) and also serves as Chair, Department of Surgery. “Maimonides saw that need and fulfilled it, in the name of providing Brooklynites with the world-class cancer care this community deserves.”

“Every time a patient walks through our doors, it’s the start of a new relationship,” says [Dr. David Berlach](#), Chair, Department of Radiation, Maimonides Health. “We get to know them throughout their care, tailoring every treatment to their clinical success and comfort level. We know our community well, and our mission is not only to connect to them to the best possible treatment, but to meet them where they are in terms of language, cultural practices, socioeconomic factors, and more components that contribute to the most successful treatments and experiences. Our team goes the extra mile at every opportunity, so our patients don’t have to. That is key to our mission of saving lives and promoting healing.”

“Since opening 20 years ago, we have never stopped our progress,” says Ken Gibbs, President and CEO, Maimonides Health. “We’ve never stopped growing, building our strategy around the needs of our community and the idea that no patient should need to travel to Manhattan for high-quality cancer care.”

20 years of milestone achievements:

Accreditations confirm our reputation of leadership in cancer care

We’re certified by the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative, a recognition of our team-based culture of quality and excellence, elevating cancer care delivery to the highest possible level. Additionally, we are accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR) for Radiation Oncology care.

We are one of only two facilities in New York State—and only 22 facilities nationwide—to earn an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons for achieving a perfect score in all evaluation categories.

We are recognized by U.S. News & World Report as High Performing in Colon Cancer Surgery (3 years in a row), Leukemia Lymphoma & Myeloma (2 years in a row), and Lung Cancer Surgery (the only Brooklyn hospital to earn this distinction).

Leading the way with Brooklyn’s first Breast Center

In 2011, we founded the Maimonides Breast Center, Brooklyn’s only breast center fully accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. The Ermina Rivera Breast Imaging Center, the first Brooklyn-based program designated an ACR Center of Excellence in multiple areas of breast cancer screening, now conducts nearly 10,000 screenings annually.

Multiple first-in-Brooklyn prostate cancer treatments

[Maimonides Prostate Center](#), founded in 2015, Brooklyn’s only full-service, dedicated prostate cancer care center, and has paved the way for cutting-edge prostate cancer treatment in Brooklyn:

- ACR-accredited in Prostate Cancer MRI, we were named among the top 5% in the nation and #3 in New York state for prostate surgery by Healthgrades, as well as the top 5% in the nation for outpatient prostate care.
- Healthgrades also awarded the Prostate Center Five-Star Ratings in both transurethral prostate resection surgery and outpatient prostate care.
- We were the first hospital on the East Coast to offer an advanced form of high-intensity focal ultrasound (HIFU), a noninvasive targeted treatment.
- We were also the first hospital in Brooklyn to offer irreversible electroporation (IRE) – a minimally-invasive treatment for prostate cancers in certain locations within the prostate.
- We remain the only established Pluvicto program in Brooklyn for the treatment of metastatic prostate cancer. The program, established in 2023 and offered only at advanced radiation oncology practices, has provided 25+ treatments to date.

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Leading in lung cancer

[Maimonides' Lung Cancer Program](#) offers innovative therapies and a robust screening program to combat the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Brooklyn. It has received Outstanding Achievement Award from the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer. Our Lung Cancer Screening Program is designated a Lung Cancer Screening Center by the ACR and a Screening Center of Excellence by the Lung Cancer Alliance, highlighting our excellence in operations and patient care. The program has preventively screened more than 5,000 patients for lung cancer since its launch in 2014.

Unique rapid assessment program

Through our outpatient Rapid Assessment Service, we provide expedited diagnoses for patients with suspected cancer, reducing the hurdles associated with the many tests and specialist visits needed to diagnose cancer, guiding our patients quickly through a process that is often rife with fear and anxiety, and fast-tracking treatment when needed.

Leading clinical trials

The Cancer Center participates in [clinical trials](#) through the National Cancer Institute, offering patients cutting-edge treatment options and improving the overall quality of cancer care available, while emphasizing informed decision-making together with each patient based on their individual conditions.

Community partnerships to expand access

In 2023, we partnered with SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University to allow Downstate patients immediate access to a broader range of specialists at Maimonides Cancer Center without leaving the community and traveling to other locations for much-needed treatment. We also opened an Infusion Center at [Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital](#), bringing infusion services backed by the expertise of Maimonides clinicians closer to even more patients.

Current innovations:

Cutting-edge adaptive radiation therapy system

Last month, we incorporated a brand-new adaptive radiation therapy system that includes a linear accelerator into our radiation oncology program. The system allows for providers to scan patients more often and adjust treatment plans in real time, shortening treatment duration, increasing precision, and boosting the efficacy of each dose of radiation while maintaining safety for patients.

Hepatic artery infusion

In 2024, we became the first and only facility in Brooklyn to provide lifesaving hepatic artery infusion (HAI), a targeted therapy for patients with metastatic [colorectal or bile duct cancer](#) that has spread to the liver. Fewer than 1% of hospitals in the U.S. offer this procedure.

Leading Brooklyn in robotic surgery

Our 2024 designation as a Robotic Center of Excellence by the Surgical Review Corporation (SRC), highlights our commitment to excellence in robotic surgery and high-quality patient care. Our patients benefit from the multidisciplinary expertise of Brooklyn's largest [robotic surgery](#) program, spanning multiple surgical oncology specialties.

Making home a place to heal

We're proud of our record of delivering these milestones to our Brooklyn community, but numbers aren't everything. That's why no patient at Maimonides is treated as just a number. Just as our namesake taught to treat each patient as a whole person and not just the disease they are suffering from, our clinical teams are experts in addressing the factors that prohibit patients from achieving the best results.

They care for each patient holistically, developing unique, patient-centered care plans for every aspect of cancer care. Honed over 100 years, our experience caring for the needs of Brooklyn's many diverse communities informs our cancer care, and we are here to advocate for our patients every step of the way, keeping them focused on healing.

At Maimonides, it is the highest reward to see our patients healthy, thriving, and with the support they need both during and after their journey to fight cancer. This year, we not only celebrate this special anniversary, but continue our many celebrations of our cancer survivors, our patients past and present, and their loved ones, including our 20th annual Cancer Survivor's Day this month, and our 12th annual Pink Runway this October. 

Read more from the [Brooklyn Paper](#).

Expanding Access to Advanced Pulmonary Hypertension Care

Maimonides Health has introduced a dedicated program for pulmonary hypertension—filling a critical gap in care for patients in Brooklyn. Until now, most patients with this condition were referred outside the borough for specialized care.

[Steven Sorci, DO](#), a cardiologist board certified in internal medicine, cardiology, advanced heart failure, and transplant cardiology, leads the program. With expertise in [advanced heart failure care](#), [cardiac amyloidosis](#), and [LVAD therapies](#), Dr. Sorci brings experience from major academic centers to strengthen the [Maimonides Heart & Vascular Institute](#).

“When I joined, I wanted to establish this program,” he says. “We had been referring patients to other facilities, and I felt strongly that we could provide the same level of advanced care here.”

Understanding Pulmonary Hypertension

Pulmonary hypertension is an elevation of blood pressure in the pulmonary arteries. It often develops as a complication of left-sided heart failure, lung disease, or connective tissue disorders, though it can also appear in hereditary or idiopathic forms.

Patients may present with unexplained shortness of breath, fatigue, or dizziness that persists despite standard therapies.

“Those lingering symptoms can be a red flag,” says Dr. Sorci. “Patients with [connective tissue disease](#), [interstitial lung disease](#), or family history also face a higher risk. For them, access to timely, specialized therapy can be life-changing.”

Advanced Diagnostics and Tailored Therapies

The program provides comprehensive diagnostic workups, including advanced imaging and right heart catheterization to measure pulmonary pressures. Once diagnosed, patients receive individualized therapy that may include oral, inhaled, intravenous, or subcutaneous medications.

“These are complex therapies that we tailor to each patient,” Dr. Sorci explains. By offering the full range of treatments, Maimonides delivers the highest caliber of care while keeping patients in Brooklyn.

A Distinctive Resource in Brooklyn

Few hospitals citywide offer a dedicated pulmonary hypertension program, and Maimonides is one of the only centers in Brooklyn providing this level of expertise.



By combining advanced diagnostics, individualized therapies, and a team-based approach, Maimonides ensures patients have access to specialized care close to home.

Collaboration Across Specialties

Pulmonary hypertension rarely exists in isolation. Cardiologists and pulmonologists are the primary collaborators, but rheumatologists, internists, family medicine physicians, and surgeons also play important roles.

“Cardiology and pulmonology are the biggest sources of referrals,” Dr. Sorci says. “But we also see patients from rheumatology and sometimes surgery. Postoperative patients, for example, can develop pulmonary hypertension, so our surgical colleagues refer those patients for optimization.”

Nurse practitioners and physician assistants frequently identify early warning signs through imaging or routine testing, making them essential partners in early referral.

A Comprehensive Advanced Heart Failure Team

Pulmonary hypertension care strengthens the broader Maimonides advanced heart failure program, which includes Dr. Sorci and two other cardiologists, [Norbert Moskovits, MD](#), and [Aleksandar Adzic, MD](#). Together, they manage LVAD, transplant, and medical therapies for patients with heart failure.

“Before this program, patients with pulmonary hypertension were left untreated,” Dr. Sorci notes. “Now, alongside my colleagues, we can manage those patients, keep them in our practice, and prepare them for therapies like LVAD or transplant if needed.”

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Because uncontrolled pulmonary hypertension can disqualify a patient from transplant or LVAD, proactive management is essential. Adding this capability also positions Maimonides as a referral center for cardiogenic shock and acute pulmonary hypertension—conditions that require rapid, multidisciplinary intervention.

Who Needs This Care—and When to Refer

Most patients are referred when symptoms don't align with standard treatment response, or when imaging studies suggest elevated pulmonary pressures. Echocardiograms and CT scans often uncover concerning findings that trigger further evaluation. Providers managing patients with connective tissue disease, interstitial lung disease, or complex heart failure should consider a referral when symptoms persist despite therapy.

When to refer a patient for pulmonary hypertension:

- Persistent shortness of breath, fatigue, or dizziness not explained by standard care

- Elevated pulmonary pressures on echocardiogram or CT imaging
- Connective tissue disease patients with abnormal echo findings
- Interstitial lung disease or unexplained dyspnea
- Postoperative patients showing signs of pulmonary hypertension

With the launch of its pulmonary hypertension program, Maimonides offers a unique, multidisciplinary option for providers across Brooklyn. Patients can now access advanced therapies, remain connected to their local providers, and prepare for long-term solutions within one health system. 

For more information, visit [Maimonides Heart & Vascular Institute](#) or the [Maimonides Advanced Heart Failure Center](#). For direct referrals, call 718-283-7315.

FEATURED STORIES

New Cryoneurolysis Treatment for Osteoarthritis Knee Pain

Maimonides Health now offers cryoneurolysis treatments for patients experiencing knee pain due to osteoarthritis.

Applying extreme cold to targeted nerve tissue blocks nerve signals, effectively reducing or eliminating pain.

Maimonides' adoption of this therapy on a system-wide level means even more patients will have access to the innovative pain relief technology. The hospital system has become one of only a select few providers in Brooklyn offering the treatment.

Fast-Acting, Long-Lasting Knee Pain Relief Without Medication

"We use cryoneurolysis to destroy sensory peripheral nerves to decrease pain," says Gary Schwartz, MD, Vice Chair for Pain Management at Maimonides Health's [Department of Anesthesiology](#). In his personal practice, Schwartz has used cryoneurolysis for more than seven years.



"The treatment has been on the market for over a decade and is FDA-approved for use on any peripheral nerve in the body," Schwartz says.

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For now, Maimonides exclusively offers cryoneurolysis to patients with knee pain due to osteoarthritis. The treatment can benefit patients across a wide range of pain management and surgery support needs, including:

- Reducing knee pain to prevent or postpone patients' need for knee replacement surgery
- Delivering a fast-acting, alternative mode of pain relief when other nonsurgical treatments—such as hyaluronic acid injections—have failed
- Accelerating patients' readiness for surgery
- Speeding patient recovery times following knee replacement surgery
- Reducing the need for prescription pain relief during surgical recovery.

Treatment with cryoneurolysis can lower patients' knee pain, enabling them to more easily adopt an exercise plan in pursuit of a target body weight or a cardiovascular health milestone before knee replacement. The treatment can also accelerate post-surgery recovery timelines.

"I've had many patients opt to receive this treatment two to four weeks before knee replacement surgery, with a goal to recover faster," Schwartz says. "Following surgery, these patients typically meet their physical therapy milestones more quickly, and they have less reliance on opiates for post-surgery pain management."

Eventually, Maimonides plans to expand its use of cryoneurolysis pain management for other common conditions, such as rib fractures and shoulder injuries.

How Cryoneurolysis Works

The treatment creates a "cold zone" around targeted nerves through the application of nitrous oxide. The nitrous oxide freezes the signal-carrying parts of the nerve, thereby blocking the nerve from delivering pain signals. This reduces patients' pain without the use of drugs.

"The cryoneurolysis application creates a small, ice-ball lesion on the peripheral nervous tissue, which effectively 'shuts off' the nerve, blocking pain," Schwartz explains. Pain reduction begins immediately, and the effects can last up to 90 days.

Applying the therapy takes around 30 minutes and can be carried out at a routine office visit. Trained providers use a handheld, needle-based device to inject the nitrous oxide into the targeted area.

The nitrous oxide creates a precise cold zone near the targeted nerve. By reducing the temperature around the nerve to roughly -88°C, the treatment temporarily freezes the nerve, preventing it from delivering pain signals to the brain. As a result, patients experience noticeably reduced pain sensation in the targeted site.

Long-Lasting Pain Relief

The cryoneurolysis process does not permanently destroy targeted nerves. Rather, it freezes the protective axon and myelin sheath around the nerves without negatively affecting their core. As a result, nerves at the application site grow back at their normal rate of roughly 0.5 to 2 mm per day, Schwartz says.

Additionally, no nitrous oxide remains in the patient's body after treatment. As a final step in the application process, the handheld instrument harmlessly releases the nitrous oxide as a gas.

"There are no drugs. Nothing stays in the patient. It's simply targeted application of low temperatures, and it provides immediate, long-lasting relief," Schwartz says.

Maimonides' launch of cryoneurolysis treatments represents a collaboration between the [Maimonides Bone & Joint Center](#) and the [Maimonides Anesthesiology Department](#). The new service reaffirms the health system's commitment to providing world-class orthopedic care with an emphasis on high quality of life for patients in Brooklyn.

"We have an exceptional orthopedic department at the Maimonides Bone & Joint Center, and we are constantly looking to improve the services we provide," Schwartz says. "By offering cryoneurolysis, we can send more patients home following knee replacement on the same day as their surgery. These patients will need less medication after surgery. They'll hit their physical milestones faster. And they'll feel better and get back to what they enjoy doing much quicker." 

To learn more about referring patients for knee pain management, contact the [Maimonides Bone & Joint Center](#) at 718-283-7400.

Back-to-School Means Reminding Parents: Vaccines Matter

Vaccines are one of public health's greatest achievements. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that childhood vaccinations prevent about 4 million deaths globally each year.

Even so, many parents are reluctant to get their children vaccinated. A 2019 study¹ found that about 20% of parents were “hesitant about childhood shots.”

The reasons for vaccine hesitancy are many and varied. But one thing is certain: pediatric care providers play a vital role in getting children vaccinated. With kids returning to school and fall and winter approaching—along with influenza and other infectious diseases that come with the seasons—this is the time to brush up on vaccine messaging.

“Doctors have to be very well-informed,” says [Rabia Agha, MD](#), Director of Pediatric Infectious Disease at Maimonides Children’s Hospital. “Before they meet their patients, physicians need all the statistics, safety data, and guidance in front of them so they can confidently support vaccination of children.”

Effective Vaccine Communication

Medical providers are parents’ most reliable source of healthcare information. So, building rapport and trust with families is essential. Also essential is ongoing dialogue. This includes sharing personal experiences with vaccines and strong vaccine recommendations.

As head of [Maimonides’ Pediatric Infectious Disease Division](#), Dr. Agha can share the experiences of many parents who did not vaccinate their children.

“I usually see patients hospitalized in ICU settings with complications from diseases that are easily preventable when we give vaccines on time,” she says. “Families are so upset at that point. Not vaccinating children can have serious consequences. It is a life and death matter—not a minor thing.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics and CDC also offer the following tips:

- Begin discussions about the importance of vaccinations at prenatal visits.
- Use a presumptive format for vaccine conversations and encourage all office staff to do the same. For example, state “Your child needs several vaccines today,” rather than asking “How do you feel about childhood immunizations?”
- When parents express concerns or have questions, listen with empathy and understanding. If they share news you’re



unfamiliar with, stress what you know about vaccines and offer to review their information. If necessary, you can schedule an additional visit.

- If parents refuse vaccines, continue talking about vaccine importance at future appointments. Because they avoid a vaccine once doesn’t guarantee they will do so again. Even if children don’t get vaccines on the recommended schedule or parents prefer spreading them out, kids may still benefit. “Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good,” says [Joanna Tsopelas, MD](#), Director of General Pediatrics. “My approach is always to meet people where they are.”

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- Emphasize vaccinations' role in protecting others. While vaccines are recommended for most children, some kids can't have them. Dr. Tsopelas stresses the critical need to protect these children with parents who don't want to vaccinate their own kids. Even if their child doesn't become severely ill after contracting a disease like measles or chicken pox, they could potentially infect immunodeficient children, she tells them. These children may require hospitalization and can have serious consequences from infections. "I find there's always an incentive for families to get fully vaccinated if somebody at home is at increased risk for a bad outcome from an infectious disease like flu or COVID," says Dr. Tsopelas.

Childhood Vaccine Safety: Evidence and Oversight

Worries about the safety of vaccines keep many parents from vaccinating their children. Pediatric providers can help put parents' minds at ease by sharing key safety details:

- Vaccines undergo rigorous testing before they're offered to the public. Surveillance systems, such as the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) and the Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD), monitor safety after vaccines are on the market.
- Childhood vaccination schedules are based on extensive research that affirms safety and effectiveness.
- Current vaccines use only safe ingredients that help make vaccines more effective.

Vaccine Myths and Misinformation

Myths and misinformation contribute greatly to vaccine hesitancy and avoidance.

"It's hard with the internet, because there's no filter to say what is and isn't true," says Dr. Tsopelas.

One of the biggest myths: Many diseases vaccines prevent no longer pose a threat.

"The reality is vaccines have been so effective, they've caused people to forget what contagious diseases look like," says Dr. Agha. "And when there is no memory, you feel it's not a danger or a threat."

Current and past measles outbreaks highlight the error in that thinking.

"Measles is very contagious, but around 2000, we felt it was almost completely eliminated from the United States," Dr. Agha says. "Then, due to vaccine hesitancy and misinformation, fewer and fewer people were vaccinating their children."

There were more than 1,200 measles cases in the U.S. in a 2019 outbreak, primarily in New York. And as of late August, more than 1,400 cases have been diagnosed nationwide this year².

Another common myth is that vaccines cause children to get sick. In reality, this is extremely unlikely. Most vaccines are made with killed, weakened, or partial pathogens. Side effects are typically related to immune system response, not the disease the vaccine protects against.

An enduring myth is that the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine causes autism. This idea arose from fraudulent research published in 1998 that was ultimately retracted. But some people have continued to believe the flawed findings.

"Every couple of years, there have been studies done to show whether there's a link between MMR and autism. Over and over and over, there is no link," says Dr. Tsopelas.

Providers should familiarize themselves with common myths so they're prepared to address parents' concerns, Dr. Agha says.

Additional Vaccine Information Sources

You can find a wealth of information to educate yourself about vaccinations on the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\) website](#). 

Visit the Maimonides website for more information about [general pediatrics at Maimonides](#) or [Maimonides pediatric infectious disease care](#) or call 718-283-7500.

1. Tammy A. Santibanez, Kimberly H. Nguyen, Stacie M. Greby, Allison Fisher, Paul Scanlon, Achal Bhatt, Anup Srivastav, James A. Singleton; Parental Vaccine Hesitancy and Childhood Influenza Vaccination. *Pediatrics* December 2020; 146 (6): e2020007609. 10.1542/peds.2020-007609
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Measles Data and Research." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html>.

New Psychiatric Emergency Department Opens



On July 24, Maimonides Health officially unveiled its new [Psychiatric Emergency Department](#) (ED). With nearly four times more space, the newly expanded Psychiatric ED provides a safe and private environment distinct from the general emergency department, uniquely suited for patients experiencing mental health crises. The new facility marks a major step forward in responding to the urgent behavioral health needs of Brooklynites. 📐

U.S. News: Maimonides Named ‘Best Regional Hospital,’ High Performing in 16 Areas

For the fifth year in a row, Maimonides was named a “Best Regional Hospital” by U.S. News & World Report, and a “Best Regional Hospital for Community Access” for the second year in a row. The medical center was also rated high performing in 16 adult specialties, procedures, and conditions and Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital was recognized for high performance in 3 procedures and conditions. Maimonides is the only safety-net hospital and only standalone Brooklyn hospital recognized this year. 📐

Stroke Center Receives Highest Quality Designation from American Heart Association

A badge from the American Heart Association for stroke care, featuring “2025 Gold Plus” and targets for stroke and diabetes honors. For the 17th year in a row, the Jaffe Comprehensive Stroke Center at Maimonides has been nationally recognized for outstanding clinical excellence by the American Heart Association’s Get With The Guidelines® awards (2008-2025). Awards include Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus: the highest-level recognition a hospital can receive from the AHA for fast and effective stroke care, as well as Target: Stroke Elite Plus Honor Roll; Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll; and Target: Stroke Advanced Therapy Honor Roll. 📐

Nov. 14: 2nd Annual Maimonides Neurology Symposium

Maimonides Neurosciences Institute, Brooklyn Neuroscience Center at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County, and SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University Department of Neurology jointly present the 2025 Maimonides Neurology Symposium. The free, virtual and in-person symposium featuring new research and clinical paradigms related to the diagnosis and management of complex neurological conditions and science. Participants can earn a maximum of 5.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™. Register at maimo.org/neurosymposium. 📐

Maimonides Emergency Medicine Featured in CNN Special on Pain Management

Dr. Sanjay Gupta, chief medical correspondent for CNN, recently visited Maimonides Medical Center to report on opioid optimization in emergency care pain treatment, a pioneering program led by [Sergey Motov, MD](#), emergency medicine physician and research director at Maimonides. The report explored non-opioid methods of analgesia, like nerve blocks, ketamine treatments, and more, and how Maimonides is reframing an approach to opioid prescription as the last resort for pain, instead of the first. 📐

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3rd Annual Maternal & Neonatal Morbidity Reduction Symposium

Maimonides’ 3rd Annual Maternal & Neonatal Morbidity Reduction Symposium was held on Sept. 9. This annual event—sponsored by the NYS Department of Health through the [Regional Perinatal Center at Maimonides](#)—brings together clinicians, researchers, and thought leaders to explore innovative solutions in perinatal health. This year’s theme was “Rethinking the Familiar: New Therapies for Perinatal Challenges.”

Dr. Millicent Comrie Recognized for Community Impact

[Millicent Comrie, MD](#), Director of the Maimonides Women’s Center, was named to the Jamaican-American Power 100 list by *NY Carib News*. This recognition honors visionary leaders who are making a lasting impact in their communities and industries.

NEW PROVIDERS

September 2024		
Ying Chen, MD, Endocrinology: (718) 283-5923	Ivan Golub, MD, Orthopedic Surgery: (718) 283-7400	Isaac Lati, MD, Newborn Medicine: (718) 283-7500
Eleonora Daribayeva, MD, Pulmonary Medicine: (718) 283-8380	Min Hyung Lee, MD, Psychiatry, (718) 283-7864	Manonmani Murugappan, DO, Psychiatry: (718) 283-7864
Lior Fortis, MD, Noninvasive & Imaging Cardiology: (718) 478-2328	Christina Hwang, MD, Pediatric Primary Care: (718) 283-1600	Ali Ahmed Siddiqui, MD, Gastroenterology: (718) 283-6505
Michelle Fleyshman, MD, Gynecologic Oncology: (718) 765-2600	Alexander Jonokuchi, MD, Pediatric Neurology: (718) 283-7470	Yevgeniy Skaradinskiy, DO, Hematology/Oncology: (718) 765-2600
Manuel Garcia-Smester, MD, Rheumatology: (718) 283-8519	Taha Khan, MD, Pediatric Neurology: (718) 283-7470	