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Expanding Multispecialty Outpatient Care at Maimonides Doctors Nostrand Avenue

Maimonides Health remains committed to expanding access to its world-class network of primary and specialty care doctors to more patients in Brooklyn. After the openings of the [Maimonides Doctors Multispecialty Pavilion](#) in 2021 and [Maimonides Doctors Clinton Hill Pavilion](#) in 2025, a new cornerstone of outpatient care in the health system has expanded to serve the communities of Midwood, Flatbush, Little Haiti, and Flatlands: [Maimonides Doctors Nostrand Avenue](#), located at 2316 Nostrand Avenue.

Merging primary and specialty outpatient care for patients' benefit

Previously a dedicated primary care practice where family physician [Cary Daniel, MD](#), has long served the community, the newly expanded practice brings on-site specialty care closer to home for patients in Midwood, Flatbush, and surrounding communities.

"Our existing patients are aware of the quality of primary and preventive care we have offered here for more than a decade," said Dr. Daniel.

"This new chapter brings these services under one roof together with on-site specialty care from Maimonides' expert physicians across multiple disciplines, providing patients greater convenience to address their unique medical needs."

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[Sophia Kostelanetz, MD, MPH](#), Site Medical Director and Associate Director of Internal Medicine at Maimonides, and an expert in preventive medicine and chronic disease management, will also provide primary care at the Nostrand Avenue location.

“Primary care is where we have the greatest opportunity to prevent disease and manage chronic conditions before they become crises. By working closely with specialists in the same setting, we can intervene earlier, personalize care plans, and help patients stay healthier over the long term,” said Dr. Kostelanetz.

Expansion is underway for specialty practices at Maimonides Doctors Nostrand Avenue; currently, specialty care offered includes:

- [Cardiology](#)
- [Endocrinology](#)
- [Gastroenterology](#)
- [Infectious Disease](#)
- [Rheumatology](#)
- [Urology](#)

“It’s our goal to provide patients with the best experience while they receive needed care, uniting primary care with several specialties designed to create a new health resource for wellness and long-term management of prominent chronic health needs,” says [Matthew A. Weissman, MD, MBA, FAAP](#), Chair of Medicine at Maimonides. “As a primary care provider, I can attest that the simplified communication afforded by close proximity between communities, interdisciplinary care teams, primary care physicians, and specialists makes a great difference in quality of patient care. The Nostrand Avenue center creates an environment in which this collaboration thrives for the benefit of our patients.”

Additionally, patients will be able to access free, comprehensive care management services through an on-site [Community Care of Brooklyn \(CCB\) Navigator](#), an expanded service through the Maimonides-managed [Brooklyn Health Home](#). The CCB Navigator helps connect patients to local programs to address key social determinants of health, like food and housing security, mental health needs, substance use, medication adherence, and more, to improve health outcomes.

Convenient care for a multitude of health needs

Maimonides Doctors Nostrand Avenue provides a wide range of services for health needs prominent in Brooklyn populations, including:

- Annual physical exams and preventive screenings for adults 18 years and older, including age-based appropriate testing
- Immunizations and vaccinations
- Chronic disease management including high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, asthma, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) care
- Lifestyle, nutrition, and weight management counseling
- Acute illness treatment
- Adult and senior care
- Mental health counseling and medication management, including for anxiety, depression, and sleep concerns, with referrals as needed
- Sexual health services, including contraceptive care, STI screening and prevention, and prescribing PrEP/PEP
- Women’s health services
- Minor office procedures, including wound care, joint injections, vaccines, and other services
- Medication management and refills

“Bringing these outpatient specialty practices to Midwood allows patients to access primary and specialty healthcare in one place, close to home, supporting outcomes, appointment attendance, follow-up care, and adherence to care plans,” said Dr. Weissman.

On-site testing and care

Physicians and care teams arrange on-site testing and in-office treatments, reducing the number of trips patients need to make to address their healthcare needs.

Diagnostic services available include:

- Lab draws (bloodwork)
- Urinalysis
- Echocardiogram (EKG) and basic cardiac diagnostic testing
- Referral coordination for imaging (X-ray, ultrasound, MRI, and CT)

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Partnering with primary care providers and linking to Maimonides' network

Primary care providers in Midwood, Flatbush, Little Haiti, Flatlands, and the surrounding neighborhoods can expect from the new center a resource for partnership in care for their patients—whether it be a simple resource for diagnostic or therapeutic procedures or a central location for specialty care referrals. After specialty intervention for chronic conditions, patients are referred back to their primary care providers to manage long-term care, with Maimonides specialists available to inform individualized care as needed.

The outpatient care center also completes an important link for patients of [Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital](#), a critical center for emergency and acute care in the neighborhood, including emergency cardiac and stroke care. Now, patients of Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital and Maimonides Doctors Nostrand Avenue benefit

from a nearby system for the full spectrum of care, including acute, primary, and specialty services, with the backing of the expertise and quality of the Maimonides system.

“We’ve seen incredible results with the opening of Maimonides Doctors Clinton Hill last year, and we’re really excited to continue that momentum here in Midwood,” said Dr. Weissman. “As a health system, one of our major goals is to achieve better health and wellness in our borough by meeting our patients where they are, and integrating this new resource into Midwood’s healthcare landscape is a great example of how we are setting out to achieve that. Our physicians are ready and excited to welcome new and existing Maimonides patients and support them in their path to better health.”

For more information, to refer patients, and to make appointments, visit the [Maimonides Doctors Nostrand Avenue website](#) or call 718-209-3333. Appointments can also be [scheduled online through MaimoCare](#). 

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New Technologies Provide Early Warning for Heart Failure Complications

[Maimonides Heart and Vascular Institute](#) has expanded its cardiac capabilities with new outpatient care technologies including a wearable, remote monitoring heart failure management system and remote pulmonary pressure monitoring device, allowing for earlier intervention, reduced hospitalizations, and greater peace of mind for patients with cardiopulmonary conditions. Combined with new and renovated facilities across Brooklyn, these investments make the institute a stronger partner for referring providers managing their most complex cardiac patients.

When the stakes are highest, where patients go matters

For patients managing heart failure or cardiopulmonary conditions that require more than routine management, the quality of their referral destination directly shapes their outcome. Early intervention and continuous remote monitoring can mean the difference between a patient staying home and a patient being readmitted within 30 days.

Maimonides Heart and Vascular Institute has built its program around exactly that standard. These new technologies give the team earlier, more precise opportunities to care for patients, often before they need to be hospitalized.



Catching heart failure before it worsens: Remote heart failure management system

For patients with heart failure, the gap between symptom onset and hospitalization can be narrow. A wearable, remote monitoring heart failure management system is designed to close that gap.

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The device is an external patch the size of a credit card, worn continuously on the left side of the chest. Using radio frequency technology, it measures fluid levels in the chest in real time, transmitting data that the heart failure team monitors remotely.

“We can detect those changes before the patient has symptoms or needs to come to the hospital, so we can help keep them at home and reduce the need to travel for treatment or assessment. We’re still monitoring what’s going on without requiring an office visit every time,” said [Steven Sorci, DO](#), a Maimonides Health cardiologist board-certified in internal medicine, advanced heart failure, and transplant cardiology.

The monitoring system is ideal for both post-hospitalization management and complex outpatient cases where fluid levels are difficult to track through standard office visits. The goal is prevention and keeping recently discharged heart failure patients from returning to the hospital by enabling earlier, more responsive medication adjustments.

“Coordination with referring providers is built into the program,” Dr. Sorci said. “Whether patients are primarily under our care or not, we stay in close communication with their general cardiologist, primary care physician, and other providers, adjusting medications collaboratively and keeping everyone aligned on the plan,” said Dr. Sorci.

The technology is not yet widely used in the immediate Brooklyn area. The use of the system requires a dedicated

heart failure monitoring team, making Maimonides well suited to offering it for the benefit of cardiac patients.

Pulmonary pressure monitoring at home

For patients with more [advanced heart failure](#) who need continuous, long-term monitoring, Maimonides now offers new technology that delivers real-time pulmonary artery pressure data directly to the care team.

The small, implantable sensor, roughly the size of a paper clip, is placed in the pulmonary artery during a cath lab procedure. Once implanted, patients take a daily reading at home by lying on an external wedge-shaped device for approximately two minutes. That data is transmitted automatically to the team, informing ongoing medication management and providing care teams with early warning of complications that may arise.

“By monitoring readings remotely, we hope to keep patients out of the hospital and help limit their symptoms,” said Dr. Sorci. “Usually, we can see changes to their pulmonary artery pressures about three weeks before they have symptoms and need to be hospitalized. We can really get ahead of it and help patients not only feel better, but also avoid the need for inpatient care.”

Unlike the remote monitoring heart failure management system—which Dr. Sorci describes as a temporary monitoring tool used while working toward a longer-term solution—the pulmonary artery pressure monitoring device is intended to remain in place indefinitely. The data it captures goes

beyond what a standard office visit can provide. The clinical team gets a continuous review of what’s happening beneath the surface, including pulmonary artery pressures, heart rate trends, and activity patterns.

The device also reduces how often patients need to travel for appointments, which is important for Brooklyn patients. Many of these patients already see multiple specialists across the city.

“When we reduce the number of in-person visits without sacrificing clinical oversight, it makes a significant quality-of-life difference for patients,” said Dr. Sorci.

The team’s monitoring role is designed to complement, not replace, existing provider relationships. When data suggests a patient’s symptoms may have a non-cardiac cause, that becomes a prompt to coordinate with the appropriate specialist.

“We can better triage and manage where patients need to go, so they get the care they need,” said Dr. Sorci.

Heart and vascular care by the numbers

- Top 1% of U.S. hospitals for survival (CMS)
- High Performing in heart attack, heart arrhythmia, heart failure, and pacemaker implantation (*U.S. News & World Report, 2025–2026*)
- Top 5 hospitals in New York State for heart attack and heart failure survival
- Highest TAVR quality rating for 30-day follow-up
- Gold Level Center of Excellence in Life Support (ECMO), two consecutive years

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Completed and upcoming facility investments to match clinical growth

At the Heart and Vascular Institute, clinical expansion initiatives are matched by investment in facilities. In 2024, a new cardiac catheterization laboratory opened at Maimonides Midwood Community Hospital, bringing cath-based procedures closer to home for more Brooklyn patients. A full renovation of the cath lab at Maimonides Medical Center is currently underway, with the upgraded facility expected to open in 2026.

A partner in complex cardiac care

For referring providers managing patients with heart failure or complex cardiopulmonary conditions, the Maimonides Heart and Vascular Institute offers growing innovations, investing in new technologies to support better outcomes and stronger provider collaboration across Brooklyn.

To refer a patient or learn more, contact [Maimonides Heart and Vascular Institute](#) at 718-HRT-BEAT (718-478-2328). 

FEATURED STORIES

Advanced, Lifesaving Surgical Care at Brooklyn's Only Pediatric Trauma Center

Trauma is the number one killer of children ages 1 to 18. When a child is injured, whether through a car accident, a fall, or a violent event, what happens in the first hour is the single greatest factor in whether they survive and how fully they recover.



That hour begins the moment EMS arrives on scene. It runs through the trauma bay in the Emergency Department, into the operating room if needed, and continues in the [Pediatric Intensive Care Unit \(PICU\)](#) and through rehabilitation. Every link in that chain is critical.

[Maimonides Children's Hospital](#) is Brooklyn's only Pediatric Trauma Center accredited by the American College of Surgeons. For children and families across the borough,

that's important. Care at a dedicated trauma center is associated with decreased mortality as compared to a non-trauma center emergency department (ED)¹.

Expert, multispecialty pediatric trauma care

According to [Lynn Model, MD, MS, FACS, FAAP](#), Director of Pediatric Trauma Services at Maimonides Children's Hospital, a dedicated pediatric trauma center is something far more intentional than a well-equipped ED.

"It is an extensive set of facilities and personnel that integrate to deliver a system of care to injured children," said Dr. Model. "This starts with the EMS caring for patients and bringing them in as soon as possible, and then includes trauma surgeons, emergency medicine physicians, and nurses on the front line who respond when a patient arrives, plus pediatric hospitalists, ICU clinical staff, and pediatric specialists who provide ongoing care throughout each patient's stay. Care teams are prepared to offer the most complex emergency care 24/7 for patients who need it."

Maimonides' [newly renovated Children's Emergency Department](#) is now four times its previous size, with 32 private treatment areas to support the full continuum of pediatric emergency care for Brooklyn's children. The facility, recognized by the New York State Department of Health as a Pediatric Center of Innovation, is one of only a few hospitals in the state to hold that designation.

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In the trauma bay, specialized equipment is ready to quickly assess, diagnose, and treat life-threatening injuries, including performing pediatric trauma surgery when there's no time to wait. The ED has 24/7 on-call subspecialists in [pediatric orthopedics](#), plastic surgery, [neurosurgery](#), [otolaryngology](#), anesthesiology, and more pediatric subspecialties.

“Our care plans—for emergency care, post-acute hospitalization, and outpatient follow-up—draw upon the many clinical resources of the Children’s Hospital, like rehabilitation services, social work services, and [child life specialists](#) who deliver music and play therapy,” said Dr. Model.

A team built to handle the most complex cases

Maimonides Health has a highly trained pediatric trauma team, with all attendings at least double boarded in their given specialties, and some with triple board certifications.

Dr. Model herself holds triple board certifications in surgical critical care, pediatric surgery, and general surgery. Every trauma surgeon on the team is fellowship-trained in surgical critical care, and all three pediatric general surgeons carry fellowship credentials as well. Pediatric emergency medicine colleagues are double board-certified in both emergency medicine and pediatric emergency medicine.

Adult and pediatric trauma care operate in close collaboration. [Rachel Caiafa, MD](#), Division Chief of Acute Care Surgery, Trauma Medical Director, and Director of Surgical Critical Care, works alongside Dr. Model and the pediatric trauma team to care for injured children when needed. She is also triple board-certified in general surgery, surgical critical care, and neurocritical care.

“We work together on a daily basis to take care of any injured kids together in a very collaborative way,” said Dr. Model. “We’re a group effort, informed by diverse clinical backgrounds and specialty expertise.”

The hospital also holds another national distinction—the program includes trauma-trained pediatric orthopedics. Pediatric trauma surgeon [James Tucci, MD](#), possesses a triple board certification in orthopedic surgery, pediatric orthopedic surgery, and trauma orthopedic surgery.

The surgical team’s collaborative culture extends to training the next generation. Maimonides runs a [surgical critical care fellowship](#), now in its third year, alongside a [General Surgery Residency program](#) with five residents per year.

Staying ahead of the science and continually improving

Quality improvement isn’t an annual exercise—it’s a monthly commitment.

“We keep up with the latest research in pediatric trauma, and we change our guidelines and protocols every month to reflect the most up-to-date processes,” said Dr. Model. “We run monthly journal clubs just for pediatric trauma, attended by both the trauma surgery team and the emergency medicine team, and multidisciplinary conferences to help our whole team keep up with the literature.”

A monthly collaborative pediatric trauma conference brings together pediatricians and subspecialists to review cases and verify that care is meeting the highest standards. It’s all part of the team’s American College of Surgeons verification process, and its own commitment to continual improvement.

Several active quality initiatives reflect the adoption of the most cutting-edge pediatric trauma clinical practices:

- **Whole blood transfusion:** Maimonides was the first hospital in New York City to adopt whole blood transfusion for critically injured children. “Whole blood has been shown in combat settings to have improved outcomes versus red blood cells,” said Dr. Model. “We incorporated this practice early on for faster recovery and better outcomes.”
- **Radiation reduction:** The team is actively substituting MRIs, X-rays, and ultrasound for CT scans when clinically appropriate, which reduces radiation exposure without compromising accuracy.
- **DVT prophylaxis:** A current initiative focuses on identifying which pediatric trauma patients with multiple fractures are at the highest risk for blood clots, and standardizing protocols to match.
- **Blood draw reduction:** New protocols for solid organ injuries, including liver, spleen, and kidney, help reduce the frequency of blood draws for stable patients.

Prevention is part of the mission

A pediatric trauma center’s responsibility goes beyond the trauma bay. Maimonides’ program includes community education on injury prevention. These efforts include training on proper car seat use, bike helmet guidance, and mass casualty incident preparedness. These are all part of a broader commitment to the children and families served.

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For referring providers, primary care physicians can guide families toward trauma prevention practices and help foster awareness of emergency care and trauma resources before an emergency happens. That awareness can make a critical difference in the moments that matter most.

Brooklyn's resource for pediatric trauma care

When a child in Brooklyn experiences a serious injury, Maimonides Children's Hospital is ready to help. Recognized as the No. 1 top performer in the 2025 Vizient Quality Leadership ranking among 98 children's hospitals nationally,

the program combines the depth of a major academic trauma center with the accessibility of a community institution—right here in Brooklyn.

To learn more about Maimonides Children's Hospital pediatric trauma and emergency services, visit [Maimonides Children's Hospital Emergency Department](#).

1. [Admission to a Verified Pediatric Trauma Center is Associated With Improved Outcomes in Severely Injured Children. Ramsey, Walter A. et al. Journal of Pediatric Surgery. Volume 59, Issue 3, 488-493](#) 

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From the NICU to the Clinic: Inside Maimonides' Pediatric Neurology Program

[Pediatric neurology](#) at [Maimonides Children's Hospital](#) is organized around six specialty clinics, covering the full range of neurological needs from premature newborns in the [Neonatal Intensive Care Unit \(NICU\)](#), new-onset seizures, intractable epilepsy, cerebral palsy, traumatic brain injury, or suspected autism. The program integrates directly with acute care services across the NICU and [Pediatric Intensive Care Unit \(PICU\)](#), supports long-term follow-up in partnership with referring providers, and is backed by research in neurodevelopment, neuroimmunology, and rare genetic disorders.

Acute and long-term neurological care

For many children, neurological care doesn't start with a referral to a specialist. It begins in the NICU, in the first hours or days of life, when a premature birth or brain injury first signals that a child may need long-term neurological support.

At Maimonides Children's Hospital, the pediatric neurology program is woven into acute care from the beginning and structured to follow children through every stage.

"Our consultation starts from birth," said [Suman Ghosh, MD, MPA](#), Clinical Director of Pediatric Neurology at Maimonides. "In some cases, it starts from a [maternal-fetal medicine](#) consultation. Or we meet the families in the NICU, because of an underlying neurological need. From there, care transitions to our Early Developmental Assessment Clinic."

The PICU works the same way. The neurology team sees children admitted with traumatic brain injuries, seizures, or stroke during acute care. Patients move into dedicated outpatient clinics when they're ready.



Six specialty programs, one coordinated team

Maimonides' pediatric neurology services are organized around six specialty clinics alongside our general pediatric neurology clinic. Each has a defined patient population and referral pathway.

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Early Developmental Assessment Clinic

The Early Developmental Assessment Clinic (EDAC) is the primary follow-up destination for NICU graduates and infants identified at risk for neurodevelopmental delays. The program serves children born prematurely, as well as those with intraventricular hemorrhage or brain bleeds, neonatal stroke, seizures, or hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy. “EDAC is primarily a NICU program,” said Dr. Ghosh, “but also open to any newborn or infant at risk for neurodevelopmental delays caused by premature birth, a brain injury as a baby, or early life trauma.” The clinic offers neurodevelopmental testing, early identification and treatment of cerebral palsy, and management of neonatal seizures and epilepsy. EDAC also accepts referrals for infants born at other NICUs whose families live in New York City.

Autism and neurodevelopmental program

Led by neurodevelopmental specialist [Taha Khan, MD, MPH](#), the newly launching autism and neurodevelopmental program provides neurological and neurodevelopmental testing for children with suspected or confirmed autism. Early diagnosis is one of the main goals because it enables earlier access to services and support that can make a difference in quality of life. Referrals come primarily from outside pediatricians and primary care providers.

Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic

The Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Clinic serves children transitioning from the PICU after a traumatic brain injury, as well as outpatients referred by pediatricians or other hospitals following an acute TBI diagnosis.

Pediatric stroke program

Launched in response to a growing community need and the increased patient volume through the newly renovated [Maimonides Children's Hospital Emergency Department](#), the pediatric stroke program is a joint initiative between pediatric and [adult neurology](#). The program was developed with close oversight from Maimonides' award-winning [Jaffe Comprehensive Stroke Center](#), especially [Q. Tony Wang, MD, PhD](#), Director of the Stroke Center, honing a strong clinical focus on early identification of pediatric stroke, timely intervention, and structured follow-up care.

Neuroimmunology program

Run by [Alexander Jonokuchi, MD](#), the neuroimmunology program addresses neuroinflammatory diseases in children. These are conditions in which the immune system affects the brain or nervous system, such as multiple sclerosis, autoimmune encephalitis, and neuromyelitis optica. Referrals come primarily from outside pediatricians and are a direct point of access for providers who have identified or suspect a neuroimmunological condition.

Neurospasticity program

For children with spasticity resulting from neurological conditions such as cerebral palsy or acquired brain injury, the neurospasticity program provides dedicated evaluation and management. Referring providers who identify increased muscle tone, movement limitations, or spasticity-related pain in pediatric patients can refer directly to the program.

A working partner for referring providers

Depending on each patient's unique needs, they may see their neurology specialist less frequently than their general pediatrician or family doctor. Maimonides neurologists partner with primary care providers to address each patient's needs holistically.

“Our neurology team works alongside referring providers—for children with long-term neurological needs, the model is one of active co-management,” said Dr. Ghosh. “We're always available by phone or email to talk with pediatricians and discuss their patients' needs further.”

Administrative support is part of that partnership. The team's nurse practitioner and support staff follow up with families to make sure that labs, referral forms, and school-related documentation are handled.

Research that reflects the patients we treat

Through research and academic initiatives, Maimonides pediatric neurologists stay ahead of the conditions they treat. The team carries out active investigations in three areas directly tied to its clinical work. These include the long-term neurological and neurodevelopmental outcomes of children born to mothers with hypertension disorders of pregnancy, neuroimmunological disorders in pediatric patients, and rare genetic epilepsies, including the identification of new and previously undescribed disorders.

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A neurology resource for Brooklyn's children

Pediatric neurology is a field where early identification and consistent follow-up can shape a child's development for years. For referring providers whose patients include newborns, infants, and children with neurological concerns, Maimonides Children's Hospital offers a structured program built for exactly that purpose.

"There are other neurologists within Brooklyn," said Dr. Ghosh. "However, this level of care—particularly when it comes to brain injury, stroke, and neuroimmunology—

is only offered at Maimonides. And even from an early developmental assessment standpoint, our high-risk neonatal program is one of the few in New York City that offers this level of in-depth neurology evaluation and follow-up for children born in the NICU or with brain injury."

To refer a patient, call 718-765-7500 or learn more about [pediatric neurology services](#) at Maimonides. 

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Gynecologic Oncology at Maimonides: Full-Spectrum Care for Cancerous & Precancerous Conditions

Maimonides Health's [Women's Health Institute](#) provides an individualized, patient-focused care partnership to women throughout every stage of life. For routine or specialty services, from [adolescence](#) to [childbirth](#) to menopause and beyond, Brooklyn patients can access the highest level of OB/GYN care close to home.



For patients with confirmed or unconfirmed [gynecologic cancers](#) and precancerous conditions, Maimonides offers exceptional diagnostic and therapeutic services, as well as preventive care through routine screenings and specialty services for patients at heightened risk.

"Our gynecologic oncology program is an essential part of the full-spectrum women's health care we provide here at Maimonides," said [Scott Chudnoff, MD](#), Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology. "Our approach centers around clinical excellence, patient comfort and experience, and enhancing quality of life for our patients facing these challenging conditions, as well as an emphasis on preventive care."

Comprehensive, multidisciplinary reproductive cancer care

With the backing of the many specialties represented across the Women's Health Institute and Maimonides' renowned [Cancer Center](#), expert clinical teams and dedicated support staff take a comprehensive approach to treating reproductive cancers.

The most common gynecologic cancers include:

- Uterine
- Cervical
- Vulvar
- Ovarian
- Vaginal
- Gestational trophoblastic disease (cancer of pregnancy-related tissue)

"In addition to invasive cancers, we also treat premalignant conditions in the cervix, vagina, and uterus, undiagnosed pelvic masses, abnormal bleeding, and genetic mutations that can confer a higher risk of cancer," says [Manolis Tsatsas, MD](#), gynecologic oncologist at Maimonides.

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The reproductive cancer care program at Maimonides encompasses the entire spectrum of care for cancer patients, including but not limited to:

- Medical oncology (chemotherapy)
- Radiation therapy
- Surgery, including [minimally invasive techniques and robotic-assisted surgery](#)
- Survivorship and long-term follow-up care
- Palliative care
- Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC), to treat cancers that have spread to the lining of the abdominal cavity

Advanced surgical and medical therapies

Surgical care is a critical element of gynecologic oncology care. Maimonides surgeons perform advanced laparoscopic, robotic, hysteroscopic, abdominal, and vaginal surgery for complex, benign, and malignant gynecologic conditions.

“Our gynecologic oncology team possesses extensive experience in surgical therapies for cancer,” says [Ioannis Alagkiozidis, MD](#), Director of Gynecologic Oncology at Maimonides. “That means that patients in Brooklyn benefit from high-level expertise in cancer treatment and prevention, and benefits like shorter recovery time, less pain and bleeding, and greater precision in procedures.”

[Maimonides' Robotic Surgery Program](#) is the largest in Brooklyn, and host to gynecologic surgeons who perform more than 400 robotic procedures a year for both cancerous and noncancerous conditions. [Albert Palileo, MD](#), gynecologic oncologist, and [Justin To, MD](#), Associate Chair of Gynecology, join Dr. Alagkiozidis and Dr. Tsatsas in providing robotic and minimally invasive surgical therapies to reproductive cancer patients.

Maimonides gynecologic oncologists are well-versed in the most effective medical and radiation therapies to be utilized independently or in combination with surgical therapies, reinforced by the multidisciplinary expertise of clinicians at Maimonides Cancer Center, the borough's only full-service cancer center.

Maimonides connects patients to [national clinical trials](#) through the National Cancer Institute and American Cancer Society via the Cancer Center, as well as to gynecologic oncology-specific clinical trials through NRG Oncology's Gynecologic Cancer program. These clinical trial resources allow patients access to the most innovative new therapies during their treatment at Maimonides, improving individual and field-wide standards of care and quality of life during and after treatment.

Regional leadership in training and clinical practice

Maimonides' [Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship](#) is a unique collaborative partnership between Maimonides Medical Center, SUNY Downstate, and NewYork Presbyterian–Methodist Hospital, in which fellows rotate between Maimonides and SUNY Downstate every three months during the two clinically focused years of training. During the third and final year of the fellowship, participants pursue research initiatives and complete a semester at SUNY's School of Public Health, focusing on epidemiology and biostatistics.

This ACGME-accredited program prepares physicians to become expert specialists in treating ovarian, uterine, cervical, and vulvar malignancies. Fellows gain extensive clinical experience through direct patient care, surgical procedures, and multidisciplinary collaboration with medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, and pathologists.

“Our program is one of the country's oldest gynecologic oncology fellowship programs, active for more than five decades,” says Dr. Alagkiozidis, who also serves as Fellowship Director. “Our fellows actively participate in the entire spectrum of care for our cancer patients, from surgical care to chemotherapy to palliative and survivorship care and everything in between. We aim to train gynecologic oncologists to excel not only in clinical practice, but also in research, academics, administration, leadership, and most importantly, expertise in patient care.”

Maimonides' regional expertise and collaboration with other Brooklyn healthcare institutions also extends beyond the fellowship program. Starting in summer of 2025, Dr. Tsatsas and Dr. Palileo began an initiative to provide clinical support for gynecologic oncology services offered at NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health. Through this collaboration, patients benefit from greater access to the most cutting-edge care for reproductive cancers.

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Addressing and managing precancerous conditions

In addition to treating confirmed malignancies, assessing and treating precancerous conditions is a critical element of Maimonides' gynecologic oncology practice. Precancerous conditions can often be identified in routine gynecologic preventive care, offering a critical opportunity for specialized management to prevent cancer from occurring.

"With common precancerous conditions like cervical dysplasia and endometrial hyperplasia, many patients don't experience any symptoms, so early identification through regular screening is essential," says Dr. Tsatsas. "Once identified, our team can help patients explore options to decrease their cancer risk, like prophylactic surgery or ongoing observation."

Genetic mutations also significantly influence gynecologic cancer risk. BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations substantially increase the likelihood of ovarian and breast cancers. Women with known genetic predispositions require more aggressive monitoring and may also benefit from preventive measures like prophylactic surgery or enhanced surveillance protocols.

Partnering with patients and providers to assess risk factors and warning signs

Gynecologic cancers often show few to no clear signs before diagnosis. Aside from known malignancies and positive biopsy results, patients and providers alike should be aware of potential warning signs that merit biopsy testing and/or advanced referral to a gynecologic oncology specialist, including:

- Abnormal masses
- Cystic lesions
- Abnormal bleeding
- Precancerous conditions like cervical dysplasia and endometrial hyperplasia
- Genetic markers and family history

"About 20% of ovarian cancer incidences are thought to be genetically influenced," says Dr. Tsatsas. "Providers can investigate whether their patients may be at heightened risk through direct testing, family history assessment, or genetic testing results of immediate family members. Diagnosing

an abnormal mutation means that a patient is at increased risk of cancer, so at that point our multidisciplinary teams collaborate to make recommendations to abate that risk, including preventive surgery to remove affected tissue, depending on the mutation."

Screening for cervical cancer

Regardless of genetic factors, all women should be screened for cervical cancer at appropriate intervals. Almost all cervical cancers are caused by sexually acquired infection from the human papillomavirus (HPV).


"Most women who acquire cervical cancer will do so in their reproductive years, so, the most common symptom, which is abnormal bleeding, may often be missed," says Dr. Tsatsas.

The mainstay of diagnosing cervical cancer is through a screening test known as a Pap smear. All women should have routine Pap smear testing starting at the age of 21, repeating that test every two to three years up until age 30. After age 30, testing gets spaced out to every five years.

HPV testing has also emerged over the past decade, allowing clinicians to identify patients at the highest risk for cervical cancer before any abnormal screening findings can be identified.

"We're fortunate to have reliable testing for HPV and cervical cancer, which makes a huge difference in treatment efficacy, survival rates, and preservation of organ function," says Dr. Tsatsas. "For stage 1 cancer, the survival rate is more than 90%, compared to less than 20% for those diagnosed at stage 4."

"Every year, our field is advancing. We're saving more lives from reproductive cancers, and we can even prevent some cases before they even occur," says Dr. Alagkiozidis. "Our team is proud to bring this world-class level of care and expertise to our patients and to be a partner to primary care and women's health physicians across the borough."

Learn more about [gynecology and women's health services at Maimonides](#). To schedule an appointment or refer a patient, call 718-283-9044. 

Advancing Pediatric Cancer Care at Maimonides: Multidisciplinary Tumor Boards & Children's Oncology Group

When a physician manages a child with a suspected or confirmed malignancy, timely access to coordinated specialty care may significantly improve outcomes. [Maimonides Children's Hospital](#) is the only pediatric cancer program in Brooklyn that's affiliated with the Children's Oncology Group (COG).

COG is a global network of over 12,000 pediatric cancer specialists. It conducts high-quality, clinical-translational trials for various cancers, including frontline, relapse, and rare tumor studies. Through its collaborative research model, COG has helped raise the 5-year survival rate for many childhood cancers to over 80%¹. Collaborating with COG enables the Maimonides Health team to work from a comprehensive, multidisciplinary model that integrates access to national clinical trials with its structured tumor board review.

Structured, multidisciplinary decision-making tailored to each patient

"The pediatric tumor board focuses on the multidisciplinary approach to diagnosing and treating children with all kinds of tumors, benign or cancerous," says [Mahmut Celiker, MD](#), pediatric hematologist/oncologist at Maimonides. "We review every case collaboratively, and treatment decisions are consensus-driven."

The board brings together specialists from across disciplines, including hematopathologists, neuropathologists, neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, pediatric oncologists, pediatric surgeons, radiation oncologists, and solid tumor pathologists.

For each case, the clinician most familiar with the patient presents the clinical history, symptoms, and exam findings. Radiologists follow with a detailed review of CT, MRI, or ultrasound imaging. When surgery or biopsy has been performed, pathologists present histopathology and molecular findings to establish or confirm the diagnosis.

"The oncologist doesn't determine staging alone," Dr. Celiker noted. "Surgeons, radiologists, and pathologists all contribute to defining the stage. It's a collaborative process."

Once diagnosis and staging are established, the board discusses treatment strategies. Options may include observation, surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or multimodal approaches tailored to the tumor type and the patient's condition.

Evaluating clinical trial treatments to improve survival, quality of life

The tumor board considers eligibility for clinical trials at the earliest stages of treatment planning. They deliberate on clinical trial options while discussing diagnosis, staging, and standard treatment pathways.

The board evaluates these factors to decide whether a child meets the overall criteria for an available protocol: tumor type, stage, molecular characteristics, prior therapies, and the child's overall clinical condition. If an appropriate trial is open, it's presented as a potential part of the treatment plan.



As a member institution of COG, Maimonides can access nationally coordinated phase 2 and phase 3 clinical trials with clearly defined eligibility criteria. Participating in COG allows the team to match patients to standardized protocols. The protocols help improve survival, reduce toxicity, or enhance quality of life.

"Clinical trial participation can improve survival by using new modalities or using different combination of existing treatments, or can improve quality of life during treatment by decreasing long-term and short-time side effects while maintaining efficacy," says Dr. Celiker. "Studies have shown that children who are treated on clinical trials do better than those who aren't, even if they get the same exact treatment."

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How phase 2 and phase 3 trials work at Maimonides

Most pediatric oncology trials conducted at Maimonides are phase 2 or phase 3 studies.

“Phase 1 trials focus on determining the tolerable dose of a new medication and are usually conducted at a select few high-volume centers around the country,” Dr. Celiker explained. “At Maimonides, we primarily participate in phase 2 and phase 3 trials.”

Phase 2 trials: Assess whether a treatment demonstrates activity in a specific cancer type

Phase 3 trials: Compare new treatments or new combinations with established standard therapy, often using a randomized design

“In phase 3 trials, patients are typically randomized to receive either the standard treatment or the investigational approach,” Dr. Celiker said. “If a new treatment shows significantly better results, trials may stop early so all patients can benefit.”

Phase 4 research typically involves long-term follow-up of medications to assess whether any adverse events emerged that weren't apparent during phase 3 trials. It's very rare for the plan to change during phase 4, but follow-up is always carried out for safety reasons.

If no suitable trial is available locally, the team consults national clinical trial databases.

“If we believe a patient may benefit more from a trial at another center than from the standard therapy we can provide, we will reach out and discuss that option with the family,” Dr. Celiker said. “Our priority is always the best possible outcome for the child.”

Current clinical trials at Maimonides

The pediatric oncology program maintains an active portfolio of COG-affiliated clinical trials across multiple disease types. [Current active clinical trials](#) include treatment of children with new onset or recurrent acute lymphoblastic leukemia, acute myeloid leukemia, neuroblastoma, and brain tumors. Clinical trials for sarcomas, bone tumors, and germ cell tumors are open to children and young adults.

The referral destination for pediatric cancer care in Brooklyn

When referring physicians work with Maimonides, they experience a multidisciplinary tumor board review and access to nationally coordinated clinical trials. It's a comprehensive framework for pediatric cancer management.

To learn more about Brooklyn's only pediatric cancer program that's affiliated with the Children's Oncology Group, visit the [pediatric hematology/oncology team at Maimonides Cancer Center](#). For referrals, call 718-765-2680.

1. [Children's Oncology Group](#) 

FEATURED STORIES

Adolescent Medicine Services Foster Individualized, Empowering Care for Young Adults

Adolescent health services are key to ensuring that teens' unique health care needs are addressed adequately, giving them a healthy start as they transition into adulthood. At Maimonides Health, [Lisa Ditchek, MD](#), serves as Director of Adolescent Services, bringing a psychologically minded, developmentally attuned approach to help young people thrive.

Understanding adolescent medicine as a clinical specialty

Adolescent medicine is a medical subspecialty focused on the comprehensive healthcare of adolescents, typically from the ages of 10 through 21, addressing their unique developmental, physical, and psychosocial needs.



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“Adolescent medicine was born out of the idea that the healthcare needs of a 2-year-old are very different than the healthcare needs of a 16-year-old,” said Dr. Ditchek. “As a board-certified general pediatrician and fellowship-trained adolescent medicine specialist, I integrate tenets of [pediatrics](#), [reproductive health](#), and [behavioral health](#) to care for adolescents with both routine and complex medical needs.”

Comprehensive services addressing adolescent health needs

Dr. Ditchek works alongside her patients’ pediatricians or primary care providers to diagnose, treat, and manage conditions that become apparent during teenage years. Adolescent medicine provides focused expertise in the unique medical, reproductive, and behavioral health needs of adolescents, allowing many concerns to be addressed in a single, coordinated setting.

Common conditions and concerns that may benefit from dedicated adolescent care include:

Menstrual and reproductive health concerns: Menstrual suppression, abnormal uterine bleeding, heavy menstrual bleeding, dysmenorrhea, PCOS, emergency contraception, and full-spectrum contraceptive care, including starting or adjusting pills, patch, ring, shot, implant, and IUD

Substance use: Known or suspected use of alcohol, cannabis, nicotine/tobacco, or other substances; cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome; and counseling on harm-reduction methods

Eating disorders: Anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder, or other specified feeding or eating disorder (OSFED)

STI evaluation and management: Sexual health education and counseling, diagnosis and management of STIs, complex or recurrent infections like pelvic inflammatory disorder, initiating or managing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for individuals at high risk of HIV infection, and PEP or Doxy PEP initiation and/or counseling

Skin concerns: Acne vulgaris

Genitourinary symptoms: Vaginal discharge, itching, odor, irritation, and acute or recurrent vulvovaginitis or resistant symptoms

Reinforcing care with psychiatric services tailored to teens

Maimonides’ adolescent medicine practice draws on a multidisciplinary approach to empowering patients through mental and behavioral health services, offering close collaboration with psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and other pediatric subspecialists.

Psychologist Giovanni Billings, PsyD, is an integral part of the Maimonides adolescent medicine care team. With a dedicated psychiatric specialist in the practice, all patients have simplified access to expert resources.


“Together with Dr. Billings, I integrate mindfulness-informed strategies to support teens’ emotional well-being, resilience, and autonomy,” said Dr. Ditchek. “This approach underscores all the care we provide here. All of our services are developmentally appropriate and take into account confidentiality and trauma-informed practices.”

At Maimonides, a [new inpatient adolescent psychiatric unit](#) is underway, addressing the pressing need for these dedicated services. Together with the adolescent medicine team, Maimonides is making more resources accessible to ensure developmentally appropriate care for this often-overlooked population.

Empowering adolescents through holistic, collaborative care


The adolescent medicine services at Maimonides exemplify a comprehensive approach to teen health that extends beyond treating isolated symptoms. By centering holistic, collaborative, strength-based care, Dr. Ditchek and the adolescent medicine team empower teens to navigate the physical, emotional, and social challenges of adolescence.

Through the integration of specialized medical expertise with dedicated mental health support, trauma-informed practices, and developmentally appropriate care and counseling, Maimonides ensures that adolescents receive the compassionate guidance and autonomy to thrive as they transition into adulthood. This patient-centered model helps normalize the health concerns of adolescents in a comfortable setting, guiding them to emerge with greater resilience and the tools to advocate for their own wellbeing.


For more information, to make an appointment, or to refer a patient, call 718-283-7500. 

Maimonides recognized as American College of Surgeons Surgical Quality Partner




Out of 609 U.S. hospitals participating in the ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, Maimonides is one of 76 hospitals to achieve meritorious outcomes for [surgical patient care](#). In addition to current accreditations, Maimonides earned new recognitions for commitment to high-quality care from the ACS under its Trauma Quality Improvement Program, National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer (photo left: *Maimonides colorectal surgeon [Elie Sutton, MD](#), front left, and [Rebecca Rhee, MD](#), Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery, front right, with the colorectal surgical care team*), and as a Verified Trauma Center under its Trauma Verification, Review, and Consultation Program. [Read more.](#) 


Maimonides maintains most Castle Connolly Top Doctors among Brooklyn health systems

One hundred Maimonides doctors representing more than 30 specialty areas were recognized as Top Doctors by Castle Connolly, up from the 97 physicians recognized from the health system in last year's iteration of the list. The Top Doctors list represents the top 7% of practicing physicians in the U.S. [Read more.](#) 


Maimonides Breast Center at the 43rd Annual Miami Breast Conference

The Maimonides Breast Center team was represented by 20 members in attendance at the annual Miami Breast Conference this March, including [Patrick Borgen, MD](#), Head of Maimonides Breast Center and Chair of the Department of Surgery, who returned to serve as Program Chair for the conference. This year, more than 2,000 registrants from 53 countries participated, with 120 lectures and panels presented by faculty of 40 international experts. [Learn more and register for the 2027 conference here.](#) 


Dr. Jessica Chung weighs in on AI clinical assistance for World TB Day

Infectious disease specialist [Jessica Chung, MD, MPH](#), will present at the Global Tuberculosis Institute, Rutgers Health, and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's 2026 NYC World TB Day conference. Dr. Chung's presentation on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare will center around the integration of AI transcription systems in Maimonides' Tuberculosis Clinic to strengthen patient care and clinic workflows. 

Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center named RestorixHealth Center of Excellence

[Maimonides Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center](#) received RestorixHealth's Wound and Hyperbaric Center of Excellence Award for July to December of 2025. The award honors centers exceeding national benchmarks for clinical quality, operations, and patient satisfaction. Maimonides is one of only two centers in the Northeast recognized with this distinction. 

Becker's shouts out Maimonides' Clinical Simulation Center

Maimonides' [Clinical Simulation Center](#) has been recognized in *Becker's Hospital Review's* 2026 "Simulation and education programs to know" list. This inclusion attests to the program's impact on patient safety and outcomes. The health system trains more than 500 residents and fellows each year, in addition to continuing education to strengthen clinical services, advance organizational priorities, and prepare staff for crisis situations and other clinical events. 

March 2026

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