

# Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville, Celebrates Grand Opening of THE PLAYERS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders and Culmination of Hand in Hand Campaign

*Eckstein Family Infusion Suite, a service of Wolfson Children's Hospital, also opens in new center*

(JACKSONVILLE, Fla. June 20, 2023) – Highlighted by a special ribbon-cutting ceremony, Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville, opened a new state-of-the-art facility named THE PLAYERS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders. The center opens to patients on June 26 and offers a fully integrated approach to hematology/oncology treatment with the ability to provide multiple services in one location, offering a better experience for patients and families.

The new center is part of the Nemours Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (NCCBD), the most extensive pediatric cancer program in the state with treatment centers in Northeast and Central Florida. In addition, the center includes the only pediatric sickle cell program in the city and one of the largest in the state.

"THE PLAYERS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders will offer the full spectrum of cancer and blood disorder care delivery," said Dr. Michael Erhard, North Florida President, Nemours Children's Health. "This is a landmark moment for cancer and blood disorder care in Northeast Florida. We are proud and honored to serve the needs of the community in an expert and compassionate fashion in this facility."

Tuesday's event was the culmination of a more than \$11 million capital campaign begun in 2019 for the center's complete redesign, expansion and renovation. THE PLAYERS Championship made the lead gift to the campaign donating \$2 million in October 2022.

"Here at THE PLAYERS, we believe in the power of helping others, transforming lives and strengthening our community, and we are so excited that this center will provide Northeast Florida families and children with the resources that they deserve," said Lee Smith, Executive Director, THE PLAYERS Championship.

Design of the project began in November 2021 and construction was complete at the beginning of this month. The project expanded the hematology/oncology department, doubling the size to more than 12,000 square feet, now taking up the entire fifth floor. New features include a dedicated laboratory space for point-of-care testing and one-stop service. The lab features a pneumatic tube station connected to Nemours Children's main laboratory on the ninth floor and to Wolfson Children's Hospital making the entire testing process more efficient.

One of the most notable enhancements of the new space is the Eckstein Family Infusion Suite which is a service of Wolfson Children's Hospital. The infusion suite features five open infusion bays and three private isolation rooms for immunocompromised patients. The space will be staffed by Wolfson Children's Hospital pediatric oncology-certified nurses and will include a medication room and a treatment room, which allows the hospital team to perform procedures such as IV starts, port access and other medical services.

"Building upon the partnership with Nemours Children's, the new Wolfson Children's Hospital Infusion suite, supported by the Ray and Kay Eckstein Charitable Trust, will help us provide comfortable, convenient treatments to patients and families within the clinic space," said Allegra C. Jaros, president, Wolfson Children's Hospital. "Children will be able to see their Nemours pediatric hematologist/oncologist, have their lab draws, get prepared for their infusions and receive their treatment, all in an outpatient setting."

The design of THE PLAYERS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders creates spaces that are comfortable and have a home-like feel that will be supportive to the needs of the whole family, ensuring the best possible outcomes for children.

New features include:

- Waiting rooms and play areas to meet the drastically different needs of teen and toddler patients.
- Comprehensive clinic capacity with room to provide multiple services that rotate efficiently.
- Specialized rooms for in-person consults, education, telehealth consultations, psychology testing and therapy.

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- Dedicated medicine room
- Comforting, supportive care service spaces including social work, a parent lounge, Child Life area and staff lounge.

### **About Nemours Children's Health**

Nemours Children's Health is one of the nation's largest multistate pediatric health systems, which includes two free-standing children's hospitals and a network of more than 70 primary and specialty care practices. Nemours Children's seeks to transform the health of children by adopting a holistic health model that utilizes innovative, safe, and high-quality care, while also caring for the health of the whole child beyond medicine. Nemours Children's also powers the world's most-visited website for information on the health of children and teens, [Nemours KidsHealth.org](https://www.nemourskidshealth.org).

The Nemours Foundation, established through the legacy and philanthropy of Alfred I. duPont, provides pediatric clinical care, research, education, advocacy, and prevention programs to the children, families and communities it serves. For more information, visit [Nemours.org](https://www.nemours.org).

### **About THE PLAYERS Championship**

THE PLAYERS Championship annually combines the strongest field in golf with the world-class venue that is THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass. Comcast Business, Optum® and Morgan Stanley are the exclusive Proud Partners of THE PLAYERS. Proceeds from THE PLAYERS benefit Northeast Florida charities and have totaled more than \$100 million since it began in 1974 and moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1977. For more on THE PLAYERS, visit [THEPLAYERS.com](https://www.theplayers.com). For more on the surrounding areas, visit [floridashistoriccoast.com](https://www.floridashistoriccoast.com) or [visitjacksonville.com](https://www.visitjacksonville.com)

### **About Wolfson Children's Hospital of Jacksonville**

[Wolfson Children's Hospital](https://www.wolfsonchildrens.com) in Jacksonville, Florida, is a part of [Baptist Health](https://www.baptisthealth.com), Northeast Florida's most comprehensive health system serving every stage of life. Wolfson Children's is the only children's hospital in Northeast Florida and serves as the pediatric referral center for North Florida, South Georgia and beyond. Staffed 24/7 by pediatric nurses and other healthcare professionals specially trained to work with children, the 281-bed, patient- and family-centered hospital features the latest pediatric medical technology in a welcoming, child-friendly environment. At Wolfson Children's, nationally recognized pediatric specialists representing nearly every medical and surgical specialty work with pediatricians to provide care for children of all ages with congenital heart conditions, cancer, neurological disorders, diabetes and endocrinology disorders, orthopedic conditions, behavioral health conditions, traumatic injuries, and more. Wolfson Children's collaborates with pediatric organizations, including [Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville](https://www.nemourschildrens.com), [UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh](https://www.upmc.com), the [University of Florida College of Medicine—Jacksonville](https://www.ufl.edu) and [Mayo Clinic Florida](https://www.mayoclinic.com). A Magnet™-designated hospital since 2010, Wolfson Children's Hospital has been named among the U.S. News & World Report 50 Best Children's Hospitals year after year, and in 2021, was selected as one of only eight children's hospitals in the country as a Leapfrog Top Children's Hospital, a recognition of patient quality and safety. For additional information, please visit [wolfsonchildrens.com](https://www.wolfsonchildrens.com).

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<https://nemours.mediaroom.com/Nemours-Childrens-Health,-Jacksonville,-Celebrates-Grand-Opening-of-THE-PLAYERS-Center-for-Cancer-and-Blood-Disorders-and-Culmination-of-Hand-in-Hand-Campaign>