Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours Children's Health Bring New FDA-Approved Gene Therapy for Genetic Hearing Loss to Northeast Florida as First Jacksonville Patients Receive Treatment



Dr. Evie Landry

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (November 20, 2026) – Families of children with a rare genetic form of hearing loss now have access to a groundbreaking new treatment close to home. Wolfson Children's Hospital and Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville, have been designated an activated Authorized Treatment Center (ATC) for Otarmeni® (lunsotogene parvec-cwh) gene therapy. On Tuesday, October 27, the team administered the therapy to the Jacksonville site's first patients post-FDA approval.

Wolfson Children's and Nemours Children's are designated as one of only 11 current ATCs in the United States approved to offer the therapy and only the second in the Southeast, alongside Nemours Children's Hospital, Florida, in Orlando. The designation recognizes the specialized expertise and multidisciplinary infrastructure required to deliver the treatment to pediatric patients.

> *"Families facing complex hearing disorders deserve access to the most advanced treatment options available," said Dr. Evie Landry, Pediatric Neuro-Otologist, Nemours Children's Health Jacksonville. "This designation reflects our commitment to combining leading-edge care with the personalized support that helps families navigate every step of their journey. Treating the first children in the Southeast with Otarmeni marks an important milestone, offering new hope to families while helping advance our understanding of how this innovative therapy can improve outcomes for patients with hearing loss."*

Otarmeni, developed by Regeneron, is the first and only FDA-approved gene therapy for otoferlin gene (*OTOF*)-related hearing loss, a rare genetic condition that prevents sound signals from being properly transmitted from the inner ear to the brain. The therapy delivers a working copy of the *OTOF* gene directly to the inner ear, addressing one underlying genetic cause of hearing loss.

Nemours Children's played a pivotal role in the CHORD clinical trial, the study that led to Otarmeni's accelerated approval. Nemours Children's locations in Orlando and Jacksonville were two of only nine sites in the United States to participate in the CHORD trial. In July 2024, Evie Landry, MD, Pediatric Neuro-Otologist, Nemours Children's Health, Jacksonville, administered the gene therapy to a 4-year-old boy at Wolfson Children's Hospital, one of 12 children studied and reported in The New England Journal of Medicine. Within a few weeks, his mother reported that household noises that he once couldn't hear were now easily recognized. At 24 weeks, the patient showed significant improvement, and subsequent tests have indicated that his hearing has improved to levels where he can hear whispers.

"Making groundbreaking treatments available locally helps ensure more children can access the latest advances in care close to home, which is our commitment to our region," said Allegra C. Jaros, MBA, President, Wolfson Children's Hospital. "We're proud to serve families across North Florida, South Georgia and beyond, bringing specialized pediatric care and innovative treatment options to the communities that need them. Through our work with Nemours Children's Health, we're helping families access excellent specialized pediatric treatments without having to travel outside the region."

Wolfson Children's and Nemours play a critical role not only in delivering the therapy, but also in identifying patients who may benefit from it. Diagnosing *OTOF*-related hearing loss requires specialized audiologic testing, genetic evaluation, and expertise in rare forms of pediatric hearing loss.

"The designation of Nemours Children's and Wolfson Children's Hospital as an Authorized Treatment Center for Otarmeni represents a significant milestone for children and families across the region," said Aaron Carpenter, DNP, MDiv, APRN, CPNP-PC, NEA-BC, FAANP, President, North Florida, Nemours Children's Health. "For families navigating a diagnosis of genetic hearing loss, access to this groundbreaking therapy close to home can be life changing. This achievement reflects our longstanding commitment to advancing pediatric care, investing in innovative treatments, and ensuring children have access to the latest medical breakthroughs that can improve their health."

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Click here for more information on *OTOF*-related hearing loss and treatment.

About Wolfson Children's Hospital

Nonprofit Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida, is a part of Baptist Health, Northeast Florida's most comprehensive health system serving every stage of life which was named by *Newsweek* as one of "America's Greatest Workplaces in Health Care." 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, Emergency Resources Group, Mayo Clinic Florida and the University of Florida College of Medicine — Jacksonville. 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 2025, was one of only 15 children's hospitals in the country selected as a Leapfrog Top Children's Hospital, a recognition of patient quality and safety. For additional information, please visit WolfsonChildrens.com.

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 80 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 addressing children's needs well beyond medicine. In producing the highly acclaimed, award-winning pediatric medicine podcast Well Beyond Medicine, Nemours underscores that commitment by featuring the people, programs and partnerships addressing Whole Child Health. Nemours Children's also powers the world's most-visited website for information on the health of children and teens, Nemours KidsHealth.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.

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