Nemours Children's Hospital, Florida, Becomes First Authorized Treatment Center in Southeast for Groundbreaking Hearing Loss Gene Therapy



Dr. Cedric Pritchett

ORLANDO, 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. Nemours Children's Hospital, Florida, has been designated an activated Authorized Treatment Center (ATC) for the FDA-approved Otarmeni® (lunsotogene parvec-cwh) gene therapy, making it the first center in the Southeast approved to provide the treatment outside of a clinical trial. On Tuesday, October 27, the team administered the therapy to the hospital's first patient post-FDA approval.

Nemours Children's is designated as one of only 11 current ATCs in the United States approved to offer the therapy. The designation recognizes the specialized expertise and multidisciplinary infrastructure required to safely deliver the treatment to pediatric patients.

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.

> *"This milestone reflects both the promise of gene therapy and Nemours Children's longstanding commitment to advancing pediatric hearing care," said Cedric Pritchett, MD, MPH, Pediatric Otologist and Chief of Pediatric Otolaryngology at Nemours Children's Hospital, Florida. "As a clinical trial site for the study that helped make this treatment possible, our team has been at the forefront of bringing this innovation to children with OTOF-related hearing loss. We are honored to now offer families access to a therapy that addresses this underlying cause of hearing loss and has the potential to create life-changing opportunities for communication, learning and development."*

"This designation marks a transformative moment for children with genetic hearing loss and for the families who have been waiting for a treatment that addresses the root cause of this condition," said Martha McGill, BSN, MBA, MHA, Central Florida Region President of Nemours Children's Health. "As Central Florida's only specialty licensed children's hospital and the first center in the Southeast to offer this gene therapy, we are demonstrating the expertise of our team and our commitment to ensuring children in Florida and beyond have access to the most advanced treatments available."

Otarmeni, developed by Regeneron, is the first and only FDA-approved gene therapy for the treatment of pediatric and adult patients with severe-to-profound and profound sensorineural hearing loss associated with molecularly confirmed biallelic variants in the *OTOF* gene, preserved outer hair cell function, and no prior cochlear implant in the same ear. The therapy delivers a healthy copy of the *OTOF* gene directly to the inner ear, addressing one underlying genetic cause of hearing loss.

Nemours Children's plays 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.

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

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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