



Thanks to a generous gift from Elisa and Marc Stad, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals are building one of the nation's most innovative and comprehensive programs devoted to pain, palliative and integrative medicine for children.



Get a sneak peek at the Stad Center's new San Francisco facility (opening in 2024) at ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/stad-center.



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The Stad Center

for Pediatric Pain, Palliative & Integrative Medicine



Providing pain relief and comfort to kids

The Stad Center is dedicated to easing pain, distress and other debilitating symptoms in pediatric patients. As one of the few hospitals in the United States to use integrative medicine in our approach to pain and palliative care, we combine the latest medical innovations with complementary healing methods. Our goal is simple: to help children feel as well as possible, regardless of their diagnosis.

Our Services



Comprehensive pain relief

Children's pain has historically been undertreated in hospitals. We're committed to changing that. Along with child-safe medications, nerve blocks and implantable pumps, we use a variety of non-pharmacological treatments such as pain relief devices, acupuncture and acupressure, massage therapy, aromatherapy and hypnotherapy. With integrative medicine, patients can achieve better pain control with far fewer side effects.

Caring for the mind and the body

Experts now understand that depression, anxiety and trauma amplify pain. Our psychologists use cognitive behavioral therapy, biofeedback (training to control the body's stress responses) and other therapies to interrupt that feedback loop and help kids feel better.

Supporting families as well as patients

Serious illness poses challenges for families in many ways and we're here to help them in navigating these challenges. Our expert staff helps families identify their care goals and make difficult medical decisions. Grief-support specialists provide compassionate care for parents and siblings going through anticipatory grief and bereavement.

Building for the future

We're growing to better serve more patients. As we welcome new clinicians from different disciplines to our team, we're breaking ground on a beautiful new center in San Francisco. Spacious, light-filled and decorated with artwork inspired by nature, it's designed to soothe and delight young patients.

Making a global impact

Advancing evidence-based pediatric pain and palliative care through integrative medicine is a vital part of our mission. Donor funding supports our work in clinical trials on different modalities for treating pain and distress in children. In addition, we have trained more than 2,500 clinicians from 117 countries on six continents – offering improvement for children not only in the Bay Area, but nationally and internationally.



Locations: San Francisco, Oakland, Walnut Creek
ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/stad-center | (877) 822-4453 (877-UC-CHILD)

Our Comfort Promise Program

We promise to do everything possible to prevent and treat needle pain. For every child. Every time.

We're working to establish a comfort promise program throughout our pediatric facilities. What it means: For patients of all ages, from babies to teens, we offer numbing cream and other pain-reduction techniques for any type of needle procedure.



About our medical director

Dr. Stefan Friedrichsdorf is an internationally renowned pediatric pain and palliative medicine specialist. An active researcher and educator as well as a clinician, he has published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles and contributed to more than 25 books on the subject. Currently, he is leading a federally funded study of a pediatric palliative care curriculum used to train hundreds of health care professionals from around the world.

ucsfbenioffchildrens.org/friedrichsdorf