The Aerodigestive Program

The Aerodigestive Program at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children is a collaborative program that treats complex conditions of the airway, lungs and digestive tract. Our program is based on high-quality, coordinated, family-centered care.

Our care team, which includes specialists from otolaryngology (ear, nose, and throat), pulmonology, gastroenterology and speech pathology, meets on a regular basis allowing us to individualize care and create a comprehensive diagnostic and treatment plan. We actively research aerodigestive problems and have a nationally renowned research and clinical reputation.

Program Highlights

- Interdisciplinary conference with otolaryngology, pulmonology, gastroenterology and speech pathology reviewing cases
- Diagnosis, evaluation and treatment for patients
- Access to a physician assistant coordinator
- Ongoing support for primary care and specialist physicians

Scheduling/Program Coordinator

Erin Field, MMS, PA-C
Phone: (302) 651-5895
Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children
1600 Rockland Road
Wilmington, DE 19803

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Conditions We Commonly Treat

- congenital airway problems:
  - laryngomalacia
  - tracheomalacia
  - vocal fold paralysis/paresis
  - laryngeal web/atresia
  - subglottic cysts
  - laryngeal clefts
  - tracheoesophageal fistula
- acquired airway stenosis
- tracheostomy
- gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD)
- aspiration
- sleep apnea
- swallowing dysfunction

The Aerodigestive Program Team

- Patrick Barth, MD (ENT), Co-Director
- Richard Schmidt, MD, FACS (ENT), Co-Director
- Erin Field, PA-C, Program Coordinator

Otolaryngology (ENT)

- Douglas Johnston, MD
- Heather Nardone, MD
- Udayan Shah, MD

Pulmonology

- Aaron Chidekel, MD
- Vandna Passi, MD
- Ambika Shenoy, MD

Gastroenterology

- J. Fernando del Rosario, MD

Speech Pathology

- Julie Hartnett
- Melissa Mancini