

Specialized, Expert-Level Care for High Risk Pregnancies

UC Davis Health System – Maternal Fetal Health Service

Finding out you'll be having a baby can set a whole range of preparations in motion. You begin to think about possible names, nursery décor, lifestyle and career changes. You plan and provide for every possible option you can think of — but how do you prepare for those things that never even cross your mind?

“No one plans on having a problematic pregnancy,” says maternal fetal medicine specialist and UC Davis Health System Prenatal Diagnosis Program Director Dena Towner, M.D. “But there are many factors that can transform a normal pregnancy into a potentially challenging experience.



UC Davis offers women and their families peace of mind through advanced medical care.



UC Davis Health System Birthing Suite

“In addition to pre-existing maternal conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, renal disease and seizure disorders, other issues that require expert care can arise during pregnancy, including a broad spectrum of fetal health concerns.”

Within the UC Davis Maternal Fetal Health Service, Dr. Towner and her colleagues provide a comprehensive array of high-risk obstetric care, addressing all the things you never thought you'd have to plan for.

From specialized neurological, endocrinology, pulmonary and cardiac care for expecting mothers to prenatal diagnosis, an interdisciplinary in utero medical treatment team and a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, UC Davis offers women and their families peace of mind through advanced medical care. What's more, the UC Davis Health System has the region's only dedicated pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon.

“Congenital heart defects are the most common fetal abnormalities,” says Dr. Towner. “Each year in the U.S. alone, an estimated 25,000 babies are born with some form of heart defect and many of those infants will require surgery to correct the problem. Having a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon right here on staff is a tremendous benefit for parents.

“For the best outcomes, it's important to choose to have your baby within a hospital where high-level care is available on site,” Dr. Towner continues. “We know that's not always possible, however, so our transport team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.”



UC Davis Health System Prenatal Diagnosis Program Director
Dena Towner, M.D.

Families across a wide region stretching from the California coastline to the Oregon and Nevada borders have come to rely upon UC Davis for leading-edge, patient-centered maternity care.

“Whether patients have a routine pregnancy from start to finish or develop high-risk problems along the way, we are here to have healthy babies,” Dr. Towner says. “The birth of a child is one of the most wondrous moments in a parent's life and our top priority is to ensure each birth is as safe and emotionally rewarding as possible.”

To learn more about UC Davis Health System's Maternal Fetal Health Service, or to schedule an appointment, please call 916-734-6900. Visit the website at www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu.

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