

Terry Heart Institute Cardiology Social Work

Meet the Cardiology Social Work Team

The cardiology social worker can meet with you during and/or after your clinic visit with your child's pediatric cardiologist.

Phone calls can also be arranged at your convenience. Healthcare providers may place a social work consult based on your voiced concerns or anticipated current or future needs. Families can also request to speak with the cardiology social worker at their discretion through self-referral.



DeAnna Holmes-Shell, MSW
Cardiology Social Worker

Should you have immediate questions, concerns, or urgent needs, feel free to ask a member of the Wolfson Children's Terry Heart Institute team to contact your social worker or call:

DeAnna Holmes-Shell, MSW
Cardiology Social Worker
Cell: 904.884.7753
Office: 904.202.8283

If you are calling after 4:30 pm on a weekday and/or on the weekend, please leave a detailed message with contact information at 904.884.7753. The social worker will return your call within 1-2 business days.



Support for Parents

Introduction to Cardiology Social Work Program

The Terry Heart Institute treats a full range of pediatric cardiac conditions, including complex congenital (present at birth) heart defects and acquire heart disorders. Our highly skilled team cares for all children, including babies still in the womb, and even adults with congenital conditions. The Terry Heart Institute serves the North Florida and South Georgia region, with patients also seeking care from all over the country and throughout the world.

When it's your child who is diagnosed with a heart condition, it can be overwhelming. The caring experts at Wolfson Children's Terry Heart Institute are here to help you understand the condition, how it affects your child and how it can be treated. Now more than ever, there are advanced treatments available to help little ones live life to their fullest potential. We can support you throughout your family's journey.

Working alongside a pediatric cardiologist, the cardiology social worker can provide mental health services and care coordination as families adjust to medical challenges while encouraging positivity in impacted families.

How Can the Cardiology Social Worker Help You?

An additional benefit in your medical care plan with Terry Heart Institute is access to our master's level social worker if you need help dealing with your emotions and the stressors of a fetal diagnosis of congenital heart disease. As professionals, social workers can provide counseling, emotional support, advice about interacting with the health care team, and resources to help you and your family cope.



Cardiology Social Workers can also help by:

- Counseling patients and families as they cope with cardiac diagnosis, illness, hospitalization and/or role changes.
- Providing psychoeducation regarding the patient's illness and care plan.
- Being your advocate by promoting patient- and family-centered care while respecting language and cultural differences.
- Facilitating family conferences with your child's team to ensure collaborative communication and comprehensive treatment plans.
- Making referrals to community agencies for basic needs.
- Creating early transitional plans to ensure the patient's readiness to move from pediatric to adult cardiology services.
- Assisting with grief, loss and end-of-life issues.
- Supporting the patient and family with behavioral, developmental, or educational concerns
- Assessing mental health or family issues including depression, anxiety, substance abuse and violence.