UPMC's Lung Transplantation Program is one of the most recognized and experienced centers in the world for lung and combined heart-lung transplantation. Since the program's inception in 1982, UPMC surgeons have performed more than 1,600 lung and heart-lung transplants. In 2011, for the sixth year in a row, UPMC specialists performed 100 or more lung and combined heart-lung transplants.

UPMC's Lung Transplantation Program is one of the few programs in the nation that has achieved this consistent volume year after year, while maintaining outcomes that have met or exceeded national averages. We offer patients optimal care regardless of their prognosis or the severity of their condition. Our surgeons and specialists have used this high level of complex cases to develop new and improved treatment regimens.
Physician Expertise
The UPMC Lung Transplantation Program works within the UPMC Comprehensive Lung Center to provide exceptional care for patients along the entire spectrum of life-threatening lung diseases. Our clinical experience and dedicated support resources have allowed our specialists to medically manage the most complex cases, including pulmonary parenchymal disease that significantly limits life activities despite previous surgical and medical therapy. Our comprehensive approach means patients are evaluated by a multidisciplinary team that can best tailor a treatment plan for advanced lung diseases, while maintaining outcomes at or near national averages.

Volume
Since 1982, UPMC surgeons have performed more than 1,600 adult lung and heart-lung transplants. This significant volume places our program among an elite few in the world with such extensive experience.

Research
UPMC physician researchers have been at the forefront in efforts to develop novel immunosuppressive regimens, including induction lymphodepletion and the use of inhaled cyclosporine to minimize rejection and improve long-term outcomes. These preconditioning regimens also help to decrease the toxicity of the drugs. It is through these efforts that our specialists gain greater insight into ways to provide better care for our patients.

Our Outcomes
As a pioneer in the field of solid-organ transplantation, our program has been consistently challenged with some of the most difficult and complex cases. Despite offering transplants to patients with complex medical problems, we maintain outcomes that are on par with national benchmarks.

To view specific information about our outcomes, including one- and three-year survival rates, please visit the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients at www.SRTR.org.

The Transplant Process
Pretransplant
The UPMC Transplant team partners with the referring physician in the ongoing care of the patient once he or she is listed for an organ with the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and is waiting for an organ to become available. Once a patient is referred for lung transplantation, he or she is assigned to a pretransplant nurse coordinator. The pretransplant nurse coordinator communicates with the referring physician to stay abreast of the patient’s condition and to ensure the patient’s status with UNOS is well-managed and up-to-date. During the waiting period, our transplant team will collaborate with the referring physician to develop a comprehensive treatment plan.

Evaluation
After financial authorization has been obtained, a transplant evaluation is scheduled. The evaluation generally can be scheduled within 72 hours of insurance approval. This process can be expedited in cases of extreme emergency.

Typically, the transplant evaluation is conducted on an outpatient basis and requires patients to stay up to a week in Pittsburgh. The evaluation includes diagnostic testing and consultations with a transplant coordinator, transplant surgeon, pulmonologist, psychologist, social worker, financial coordinator, nutritionist, and other specialists as needed.

Decisions regarding approval of lung transplant candidates are made by a multidisciplinary team that carefully reviews each patient’s case at a weekly selection meeting. For those patients not medically suitable for lung transplantation, our team offers collaborative alternatives and leading-edge medical therapies. We also aid in the transition of the patient’s care to the appropriate subspecialty disciplines within the expansive family of UPMC resources. The specialists in our Comprehensive Lung Center can provide highly specialized care for patients with advanced lung disease that may be able to delay or even prevent the need for transplantation altogether.

Transplant Surgery and Hospitalization
Once an organ becomes available, the transplant coordinator notifies the patient, who then reports for admission to UPMC and is prepared for surgery. Following surgery, the patient is cared for in our advanced cardiovascular intensive care unit — a highly specialized care unit where each patient’s progress is carefully monitored by a critical care team of certified transplant nurses and other trained experts including intensivists and infectious disease specialists. The lung transplant team provides primary care during hospitalization and collaborates with referring specialists to provide long-term and follow-up care after discharge.

Who is a candidate?
• Patients with life-threatening lung diseases, including pulmonary parenchymal or vascular disease that significantly limits life activities despite previous surgical and medical therapy.
• Patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary fibrosis, cystic fibrosis, alpha 1 antitrypsin deficiency, and others.
• Patients who may benefit from a minimally invasive approach to lung transplantation.

How to refer:
Members of our team are available for consultations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Every patient is different and every case is unique. The selection criteria shown above is simply a guideline – we encourage you to get in touch if you have questions about eligibility of your patient. It’s never too early to consult us, and we can begin the intake process with very basic information about the patient. You may call, fax, mail or email us all related information and medical records.

For Your Patients
To learn more about lodging and other accommodations for your patients, visit www.upmc.com/lungtransplant.

UPMC Lung Transplantation Program
UPMC Presbyterian, Suite C-900
200 Lothrop St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Attn: Lung Transplant Coordinators
Telephone: 412-648-6202
UPMC’s 24-hour physician referral service: 1-800-544-2500
Fax: 412-648-6369
Email: lungtransplant@upmc.edu

Outreach and Education
We recognize that open dialogue with referring physicians is essential in building strong relationships and better care for patients. Our staff welcomes the opportunity to speak with individual physicians, group practices, or affiliated organizations to provide information on services and physician specialists, coordinate contacts with key transplant staff, and provide an update of transplant program research and outcomes. For more information, please contact our outreach liaison at 412-647-5010 or transplant@upmc.edu.