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 1,500 lung and heart-lung transplantations. In 2010, for the fifth 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.

(continued)
Physician Expertise
The UPMC Lung Transplant Program works closely with 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 therapies. 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
UPMC is one of the few programs to have performed more than 1,500 adult lung and heart-lung transplants. In fact, in the last five years, we have performed 100 or more lung and combined heart-lung transplants each year.

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 drugs’ toxicity. It is through these efforts that our specialists gain greater insight into ways to provide better care for our patients.

Our Outcomes
Historically, our outcomes have been at or near national averages. 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. Our surgeons and specialists have used this high level of complex cases to develop advancements that have resulted in new and improved treatment modalities.

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

The Transplant Process
Preliminary Clinical Review
To ensure that each patient is carefully evaluated to determine his or her best course of treatment, many patient referrals start at the UPMC Lung Transplantation Program, which works closely with the UPMC Comprehensive Lung Center to provide exceptional care to patients along the entire spectrum of lung diseases. This includes offering patients convenient access to the most advanced methods of evaluations and medical management. For transplant referrals, a demographic and clinical summary is completed and sent to the lung transplant team. A pretransplant nurse coordinator collects the patient’s medical history, radiology studies, recent blood work, and current physical findings. This information is then reviewed by our lung transplant/pulmonology team to determine whether a transplant evaluation is appropriate. If so, insurance authorization is obtained, and a transplant evaluation is scheduled. The evaluation and care can be scheduled within 72 hours of insurance approval. This process can be expedited in cases of extreme emergency.

Financial Authorization
Before the patient’s transplant evaluation is scheduled, he or she will be assigned to a specific UPMC transplant credit analyst, who will be his or her contact during the entire transplant process. During this time, the credit analyst will work closely with the insurance case worker to learn the extent of the patient’s insurance coverage. Once approved for transplant, the patient will receive a packet of information.

The patient’s credit analyst will be available for any questions he or she may have about insurance coverage and the expenses of transplantation. At UPMC, we are dedicated to advancing the quality and efficiency of health care worldwide. Our team at UPMC Global Care offers our international patients access to an extensive array of exceptional health care services and expertise.

Evaluation
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 and 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.

Pretransplant
The UPMC Transplant team partners with the referring physician in the ongoing care of the patient once he or she is listed on an organ with the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) and are waiting for an organ to become available. Once a patient is approved 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.

Transplant Surgery and Hospitalization
Once an organ becomes available, the transplant coordinator notifies the patient, who then reports for admission to UPMC and is prepped for surgery. Following surgery, the patient is cared for in our advanced cardiothoracic 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.

Outreach and Education
UPMC welcomes the opportunity to speak with individual physicians. 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 studies. For more information, contact our outreach liaison at 412-647-5010 or transplant@upmc.edu.

How to Refer Patients for Lung Transplant Evaluation
To ensure optimal continuity of patient care, UPMC transplantation specialists pursue a collaborative approach with referring physicians. We strive to maintain open communication and provide timely feedback. Members of our team are available for consultations 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To refer a patient to the Lung Transplantation Program:
1. Have ready the following information:
   • demographic information (name, date of birth, address, phone number, emergency contacts, etc.)
   • original diagnosis, including prior history of medical care, and previous medical tests performed
   • referring physician and primary care physician information
   • insurance information
2. Call 1-800-544-2500 or 412-648-6202 to speak with a clinician or e-mail: cttransplant@upmc.edu
3. Mail, fax, or e-mail all related information and medical records regarding your case to the office (see contact information).
4. After receipt of medical records and financial clearance, the initial evaluation for your patient will be scheduled.

For more information about referring a patient, visit www.upmc.com/transplant.

Fast Track
When necessary, our team can offer a “fast track” process for referrals, which includes scheduling an evaluation appointment within 72 hours of insurance authorization.

Contact
UPMC Cardiothoracic Transplantation Program
UPMC Presbyterian, Suite C-900
200 Lothrop St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Att. Lung Transplant Coordinators
UPMC’s 24-hour physician referral service:
1-800-544-2500
Telephone: 412-648-6202
Fax: 412-648-6355
E-mail: cttransplant@upmc.edu

UPMC’s transplant programs are among the world’s largest and are internationally renowned for their influence on the field of transplantation. For nearly 30 years, UPMC has been providing care to adult and pediatric transplant patients through services at the Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute, UPMC Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh’s Center for Pediatric Transplantation. Today, UPMC has performed more than 17,000 transplants, including heart, lung, intestinal, kidney, liver, pancreas, and multi-organ transplants, along with heart and device implantation. UPMC also partners with the University of Pittsburgh to advance basic science and clinically applied research, as well as to support the teaching and training of transplant specialists worldwide.