

Sault Ste. Marie Pediatrics

Welcome

Thank-you for considering Sault Ste. Marie Pediatrics for your clinical elective. The Sault is a great place to experience community consulting pediatrics in a Northern setting with no rapid access to a tertiary centre or subspecialists. For medical students it is a great way to immerse yourself in classic pediatric presentations. For pediatric residents, this is your chance to manage complex and specialty cases with more independence. All of the pediatricians here practice as a team. We pride ourselves on customizing clinical experiences that will meet your learning objectives and will work with you one-on-one to meet them. Outside of work, take some time to enjoy the surrounding natural beauty in four distinct seasons.

Pediatric services

The **Sault Area Hospital** has a Maternal-Child Department that houses approximately 8 general pediatric beds as well as 10 beds in our advanced Level 2 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. There are also 4 labour and delivery suites, an operating room, several post-partum beds, and a day-surgery unit within the same department. Adjoining the department is our Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP) inpatient unit with 6 beds.

The hospital pediatric service is staffed continuously by an on-call pediatrician, who is supported by pediatric-trained nurses and a pediatric dietician. Respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and our social worker are shared with other units, and our lactation consultants visit from the public health unit. Pediatric consults originate from the emergency department, labour and delivery, satellite hospitals in the district, and occasionally physicians' offices. The psychiatrists serve as MRP for the CAP inpatients.

Our NICU is equipped and staffed to handle neonates at 30 weeks gestational age or greater including ventilation, TPN, central lines, nasogastric feeding, and phototherapy.

Outpatient medical services are concentrated at the **Group Health Centre** where all of the local pediatricians have their office-based practices. The Group Health Centre is Canada's largest multi-specialty collaborative ambulatory care centre hosting approximately 90 physicians at last count. Physicians share facilities, medical records, and ancillary staff to deliver patient-centred collaborative care. There is a lab and diagnostic imaging department in-house, as well as operating suites, our regional diabetes program, an injection clinic, and many other healthcare programs. The GHC Child and Youth Mental Health Program is delivered by the local pediatricians, a child psychiatrist, a family doctor, our team of nurses, and two social workers with training in psychotherapy.

On-Call Schedule

The PARO-CAHO Collective Agreement is respected for all local and visiting learners including medical students. All call in Sault Ste. Marie is home-call, and we ask that you be within 20 minutes of the hospital. Nonetheless there are call rooms at the hospital if required. The maximum home call rate is 1-in-3, and at least one in every two weekends will be free of all clinical duties.

Number of Patient Visits per Week

At any given time there may be 3-10 babies in the NICU and 0-8 children admitted to the hospital. The number of new consults per day is also highly variable, with some quiet days and others extremely busy. The birth rate is about 1000 per year, but a pediatrician is only called to high-risk deliveries.

Outside the hospital, pediatricians may see anywhere from 10-20 patients per clinic day.

Training Level

Sault Ste. Marie Pediatrics will accept trainees at all levels including pediatric residents, off-service residents, clinical clerks and pre-clerks.

Work Setting

Learners will spend most of their time at the Sault Area Hospital and in the pediatric practices at the Group Health Centre. Where possible we will schedule learners in specialty clinics like pediatric echocardiography, development, sedations, botox injections, and our multidisciplinary diabetes clinic. Learners may also spend time with rehabilitative specialists at THRIVE (Children's Rehab Centre), developmental specialists at Algoma Public Health, or counselors at Algoma Family Services.

Specialization

All of the local pediatricians are general pediatricians who do consulting rather than primary care. We see infants, children and adolescents with a wide variety of clinical presentations and we typically have broader scopes than pediatricians in urban settings. The nearest tertiary centre is 8 hours away by car or 1 hour by air.

Dr. Zufelt also has an integrated pediatric cardiology practice. Additional subspecialists in pediatric neurology, allergy, and genetics visit the Sault from time to time. Where subspecialists are not immediately available, the local pediatricians co-manage cases with colleagues at the various tertiary care centres.

