**Children’s of Alabama**

Since 1911, Children’s of Alabama (COA) has provided specialized medical care for ill and injured children. A private, not-for-profit medical center, COA serves as the teaching hospital for the UAB pediatric medicine, surgery, psychiatry, research and residency programs. Ranked among the best children’s hospitals in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, Children’s is the only health system in Alabama dedicated solely to the care and treatment of children. With more than 3.5 million square feet, it is one of the largest pediatric medical facilities in the United States. In 2022, Children's had 694,161 patient visits to our clinics and 16,074 patient admissions. In 2012, Children’s opened two new facilities, strengthening its ability to serve pediatric patients statewide. The Benjamin Russell Hospital for Children, a 12-story, 760,000-square-foot, $400 million expansion allowed Children’s to increase its licensed beds from 275 to 350, ranking Children’s in the top 15 pediatric medical centers based on bed count. The hospital also opened the Joseph S. Bruno Pediatric Heart Center, which includes a 20-room cardiovascular intensive care unit, two dedicated surgical suites, three heart and vascular catheterization labs, and four dedicated extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) rooms. The floor connects directly via skywalk to the new UAB Women and Infants Center to provide quick and efficient access for the physicians and surgeons to their pediatric patients, as well as for the immediate transport of newborns requiring specialized care for congenital heart ailments. At the cornerstone of the Bruno Heart Center is its innovative pediatric hybrid catheterization suite, the only one of its kind in the state of Alabama. The hybrid cath lab is equipped with $3 million worth of state-of- the-art technology that allows it to be immediately converted to a cardiovascular surgical suite, eliminating the need to bring children out of anesthesia for a second procedure in a different room.

**Children’s of Alabama Investigational Pharmacy**

Children's of Alabama Pharmacy department is committed to excellence in the provision of pharmaceutical care including medication delivery, decisions about medication selection, dosages, routes and methods of administration, medication therapy monitoring, and the provision of other medication-related information and counseling to individual patients.  The Investigational department provides services for inpatients and clinic patients.  Its pediatric-trained pharmacists provide investigational drug support and drug information services to the patients and health care professionals within the health system.

Investigational (Study) Drug Policy: The pharmacy department is responsible for establishing specific procedures regarding the control and usage of medications related to clinical research in order to ensure the safety of research subjects.  These procedures comply with UAB’s Institutional Review Board.  Investigational medications require a complete order by an authorized prescriber.  All investigational drugs dispensed to enrolled study patients seen at COA are stored separately from other drugs in an area of limited access and are dispensed from the Pharmacy Department.  All inpatient and outpatient medications must be clearly labeled as required in the procedural guidelines.  The pharmacy is responsible for reviewing protocols to ensure they are in accordance with hospital policy.  Pharmacists dispense investigational drugs only after receiving written confirmation that a subject has properly signed an IRB-approved informed consent and is a currently enrolled study patient either from the PI or his/her designee.  Investigational drugs are dispensed only upon receipt of an order or prescription authorized by a PI and after checking if the dose is correct per protocol guidelines.  Pharmacists are also responsible for maintaining accurate records, storing drugs according to manufacturer’s specifications, and disposing of unused materials or returning unused materials to the sponsor in accordance with instructions.  Pharmacists also provide the identity codes for blinded investigational drugs, if authorized by the study sponsor and/or protocol if necessity demands.  Upon completion of a study, the study pharmacist will dispose of or return unused materials to the sponsor in accordance with instructions from the protocol, PI, study sponsor, or Drug Enforcement Administration, as appropriate, and will store all pertinent records as deemed appropriate by designated agencies and the drug sponsor and/or sponsor representative.