# **REMOTE SECOND OPINIONS:** A Guide for International Patients

*Connecting with a CCM Center of Excellence or Clinical Center from outside the United States*

## Considering a Remote Second Opinion?

If you live outside the United States and want expert input on your cavernous malformation (CCM) diagnosis or treatment plan, you don't always need to travel. Several CCM Centers of Excellence and Clinical Centers in the Alliance to Cure network have dedicated global medicine or international patient services programs that can review your case remotely — often working alongside your local doctor.

## How the Process Works

### 1. Choose a Center

Review the participating CCM Centers of Excellence and Clinical Centers listed below and their international/global medicine programs.

### 2. Contact the Program

Reach out to the center's global medicine or international patient services team directly — or ask your local physician to make the introduction.

### 3. Send Your Records

Share your medical history, imaging, and reports as instructed by the program.

### 4. Receive Expert Review

A CCM specialist — sometimes with a multidisciplinary team — reviews your case and shares recommendations, usually with your local doctor.

## Participating Centers & How to Reach Them

The centers below are part of the Alliance to Cure CCM Center Network and offer pathways for international patients through their hospital's global medicine program. Availability, fees, and requirements vary — contact the program directly for current details.

| CCM Center | Patient Population | Online Resources | How to Get Started |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Barrow Neurological Institute** | Pediatric & Adult | Barrow Second Opinion Program | Contact Info@BarrowNeuro.org to begin the international patient referral process or to request a neurosurgical second opinion. |
| **Boston Children's Hospital** | Pediatric Only (New patients up to age 22-24) | BCH Global Pediatric Services and Destination Medicine | Contact Dr. Smith's team directly (cvdsurgery@childrens.harvard.edu); the team will collect records for weekly review and follow up with recommendations within about 1 week. Urgent review may be requested. |
| **Children's National Hospital** | Pediatric Only | Neurology and Neurosurgery Care for International Patients | Contact Children's National Global Services to get started. |
| **Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center** | Pediatric & Adult (case by case basis) | CCHMC International Patients and Families | Send referrals to cerebrovascular@cchmc.org (Attn: Sudhakar Vadivelu, DO); CCHMC also offers a remote second opinion program. |
| **Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago** | Pediatric | Lurie Children's International Patient Servies | Contact International Patient Services by email at ips@luriechildrens.org or by phone at 1 (312) 227-4550 to begin the referral process. |

| CCM Center | Patient Population | Online Resources | How to Get Started |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Stanford Health Care** | Pediatric & Adult | Stanford International Medical Services | Email the Stanford CCM Center of Excellence team at StanfordAllianceToCureCCMCOE@stanfordhealthcare.org to ask about remote second opinion. |
| **Texas Children's Hospital** | Pediatric | Texas Children's International and Destination Medicine | Referring physicians can email international@texaschildrens.org or call +1-832-824-1138 (direct line) |
| **University of Chicago** | Pediatric & Adult | University of Chicago Hospital International Patient Services | Contact Dr. Awad's admin assistant, Amber Ogle (Amber.Ogle@bsd.uchicago.edu) and Clinic Coordinator, Kristen Simon (Kristin.Simon@uchicagomedicine.org) to ask about remote second opinion for international patients. |
| **University of Miami** | Pediatric & Adult | Miami UHealth International | Contact Dr. Starke directly (RStarke@med.miami.edu); Dr. Starke will review your case once your local provider sends records. |

### Good to Know

- A remote second opinion is a **review**, not a replacement for ongoing local care — you'll continue seeing your own doctor for treatment and follow-up.
- Fees, required documents, and turnaround times **vary by center** — always confirm directly with the program before sending records.
- Some programs (noted above) accept **pediatric** cases, others **adult**, and some **both** — check with the center if you're unsure.

## Alliance to Cure Cavernous Malformation

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**Patient Navigator:** Not sure where to start? A real person can help you navigate centers, records, and insurance questions —contact help@alliancetocure.org to connect.

*Updated 10.30.2026 | Referral information provided by Alliance to Cure Cavernous Malformation partner centers*