A Parent's Guide to the Bowel Management Clinic

When your child needs specialized care, everything matters.

At Nationwide Children's Hospital, we know that having a child or teenager with bowel problems is a very stressful experience. Treating this problem requires a lot of time, energy and patience. Over the years, we have seen that the families who are likely to manage bowel problems most effectively are those who have frequent follow-up medical care and a structured behavioral plan.

To meet these needs, we have developed the GI Bowel Management Clinic (BMC). The BMC involves frequent follow-up with a nurse practitioner to manage the medical aspects of your child's problem, as well as visits with a behavioral specialist to ensure that the medical treatment is as effective as possible.



Which patients can use this clinic?

The BMC has been specially designed to work with children ages 3 through 18 who have had ongoing bowel problems. Diagnoses often include:

- Toileting avoidance/refusal
- Stool withholding
- Encopresis (soiling)
- Constipation

Where are the clinics held?

- Nationwide Children's Hospital main campus, 700 Children's Drive, Columbus, Center for Digestive Disorders, 1st floor
- Dublin Medical Office Building, 5665 Venture Drive, Dublin (adjacent to Dublin Close To Home™ Center)
- We also offer a special Bowel Management Clinic specific to the needs of patients with autism spectrum disorders, which takes place at the Westerville Surgery Center, 455 Executive Campus Drive in Westerville.

For directions, visit NationwideChildrens.org/Maps

How long are the clinic appointments?

Your first visit may take approximately one hour, so that we can fully assess and understand your concerns. After this, follow-up appointments may be every few weeks and visits will be 30 to 45 minutes.

How can I schedule an appointment?

Receiving this flyer means that a gastroenterologist or pediatric nurse practitioner has evaluated your child and feels that he or she may benefit from this clinic. Call Central Scheduling at **(614) 722-6200** and indicate that you are scheduling for the GI Bowel Management Clinic. You may be able to choose one of our three locations, based on available appointments and your child's needs. Cancellations and re-scheduling are also handled by calling this number.

Once your initial visit is scheduled, you will receive a packet with questions about your child's medical problem and his or her behavior. We need to review this information when we see your child for the first time at the clinic, **so you must complete the packet and bring it with you on your first visit.**

