



## Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program

Nationwide Children's Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for infants through the development of personalized, feeding management strategies based on clinical and translational research.

Oral feeding can be difficult for many babies and current techniques used to evaluate neonatal feeding disorders are often limited and largely subjective. In response to this growing difficulty, the physician scientists at Nationwide Children's Hospital are using innovative and therapeutic research approaches to find the cause of feeding difficulty in developing infants.

## Our Approach

For every baby diagnosed with a feeding disorder at Nationwide Children's Hospital, the ultimate goal is full, oral feeds. The first step toward that goal is to perform diagnostic studies, which include a feeding evaluation and radiologic and motility studies. The second step is to develop a rational, therapeutic strategy with help from a team of specialists including an occupational therapist, nutritionist, neonatologist, nurse and patient care assistant. The program studies babies between newborn and six months of age that are presently in, or have recently been released from, a newborn intensive care unit (NICU) and demonstrate the following conditions:

- :: Born prematurely
- :: Chronic lung disease (BPD)
- :: Acid reflux (GERD)
- :: Suspected gastrointestinal motility problems
- :: Swallowing problems
- :: Perinatal neurological illness

Led by nationally renowned researcher Sudarshan R. Jadcherla, MD, Nationwide Children's Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program is working to predict and diagnose feeding related disorders, while moving towards overall prevention and early treatment for high-risk infants admitted to the NICU. Most importantly, the program strives to prevent future behavioral issues, allowing premature babies to "catch up" faster. Based on an initial inpatient feeding consultation, a baby can become part of Nationwide Children's feeding study, which assists in the diagnostic evaluation of his/her feeding problems.

The study will guide the interdisciplinary team and family in developing a long-term feeding treatment program. Some of the services available include:

- :: Feeding consultation
- :: Pharyngoesophageal motility
- :: Esophageal motility
- :: Esophageal pH and impedance
- :: Evaluation and management of swallowing problems

The neonatal and infant feeding disorders program coordinates with various divisions of the hospital, including:

- :: Cardiology
- :: Clinical Nutrition and Lactation
- :: Occupational and Physical Therapy
- :: Gastroenterology
- :: Sleep Medicine
- :: Radiology

For more information about Nationwide Children's Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program, as well as research associated with the program's efforts, go to [www.NationwideChildrens.org/FeedingDisorders](http://www.NationwideChildrens.org/FeedingDisorders).



## Team Leadership

Sudarshan R. Jadcherla, MD, is a member of the Neonatology Section at Nationwide Children's Hospital and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Dr. Jadcherla is interested in elucidating the cause of feeding problems in infants. Specifically, pharyngoesophageal motor function tests and gastroduodenal motility studies are performed in this program. Dr. Jadcherla is working to understand the pathophysiologic basis for the symptoms in order to make appropriate changes in feeding management. Dr. Jadcherla's clinical research works to define the mechanisms behind feeding failure and compromised airways in developing infants. Thus, paving the way for evidence-based diagnosis and therapeutic intervention. For more information about Dr. Sudarshan Jadcherla's research into infant feeding disorders and to view a bibliography of his published manuscripts, visit [www.NationwideChildrens.org/FeedingDisorders](http://www.NationwideChildrens.org/FeedingDisorders).

### Physician Direct Connect Line

The Physician Direct Connect Line is a physician consult-transfer center, managed by experienced nurses who can assist providers in caring for their children by being a single point of contact for:

- :: Transfer requests
- :: Referrals from local and regional physicians
- :: Emergency referrals
- :: Direct admissions
- :: Physician to physician consultation requests

A key feature of this center is the consultation service where referring physicians can speak directly with a Nationwide Children's physician within minutes of their call.

For urgent physician consultations, call (614) 355-0221 or 1-877-355-0221.

To arrange a transport, call our 24-hour Emergency Communications Center (ECC) at 1-800-642-6666 or (614) 722-5100.

### Welcome Center Services

Nationwide Children's Welcome Center Services is one of the only patient programs of its kind where the *Sleep Well, Get Well* program is made available to our patients. Through *Sleep Well, Get Well*, local hotels, in support of Nationwide Children's mission, offer our families traveling from outside of the central Ohio area a free hotel stay the night before any inpatient or outpatient procedure (pending availability). We understand that in order to prepare for a hospital procedure or visit, getting a good night's rest the night before, for both you and your child, is essential.

Additionally, Welcome Center Services supports families by coordinating all aspects of their visits with their clinical team, including:

- :: Financial counseling to assist families with questions related to coverage for health care services, and specifically for out-of-network coverage.
- :: Interpreters
- :: Sibling care
- :: Pastoral care

### Housing and Transportation

In addition to our *Sleep Well, Get Well* program, Columbus has a variety of transportation and housing options. Our local partners extend many special discounts to our patients and families. For a full listing of these, please ask your coordinator or visit our web site at [www.NationwideChildrens.org](http://www.NationwideChildrens.org).

For more information or to refer a patient to Welcome Center Services, please call 1-800-792-8401 extension 59866.



If you have questions or would like additional information about the Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program, please call (614) 722-4428 or visit our web site at [www.NationwideChildrens.org/FeedingDisorders](http://www.NationwideChildrens.org/FeedingDisorders).

