



# Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program



# **We are the leading authority on newborn and infant feeding disorders.**

The Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program at Nationwide Children's Hospital is dedicated to improving the quality of life for infants through the development of personalized, feeding management strategies based on clinical and transitional research. Our advanced care optimizes the outcomes for infants with feeding disorders, allowing them to go home sooner, while lowering readmission rates.

Oral feeding is often difficult for babies hospitalized in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) and current techniques used to evaluate neonatal feeding disorders are largely subjective. In response to this growing difficulty, our physician-scientists are using innovative approaches to find and treat the cause of feeding difficulty in developing infants. Our program is the only one of its kind, testing the sensory-motor aspects of reflexes in premature infants in activity or sleep, and in health or in disease. The crib-side research efforts lead us to define newer clinical and translational strategies in these vulnerable infants.

## **Our team approach is comprehensive and family centered.**

For every baby diagnosed with a feeding disorder, the ultimate goal is full oral feeds. The first step toward that goal is a multi-modal diagnostic study, with a feeding evaluation and radiologic and motility studies. The second step is the development of a rational, therapeutic strategy, with help from a team of specialists—an occupational therapist, nutritionist, neonatologist, nurse and patient care assistant—working together with the family.

Our program cares for babies between newborn and 6 months of age that are presently inpatients, or have recently been released from other NICUs and demonstrate the following conditions:

- Born prematurely
- Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD)
- Acid reflux (GERD)

- Suspected gastrointestinal motility problems
- Swallowing problems
- Perinatal neurological illness

Based on an initial inpatient feeding consultation, a baby can become part of Nationwide Children's feeding disorders study, to diagnose his or her feeding problems. Results of this study determine the next steps, which may include:

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

The program coordinates experts from various divisions of the hospital, including:

- Cardiology
- Clinical nutrition and lactation
- Occupational and physical therapy
- Gastroenterology
- Sleep medicine
- Radiology

## **We help infants reach milestones faster. So they go home sooner.**

Our experts work to prevent, predict, diagnose and treat feeding-related disorders for high-risk infants admitted to the NICU. Most importantly, the program strives to prevent future developmental issues, allowing premature babies to “catch up” faster.

We designed our new Feeding Enhancement Program to streamline the feeding process for premature babies and help them learn to feed sooner and with fewer complications. Weekly “feeding rounds” in our main campus NICUs incorporate parents, as our team evaluates each baby's feeding capabilities, closely follows milestones, identifies risk factors that may delay feeding skills, and addresses any anxieties about feeding the baby.

**Our team is led by a nationally renowned researcher.**

Sudarshan R. Jadcherla, MD, a member of the Section of Neonatology at Nationwide Children’s and a Professor of pediatrics at the Ohio State University College of Medicine, is dedicated to finding and curing the causes of feeding problems in infants. He is the Director of the Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders program. His clinical and translational research aims to define the mechanisms behind feeding failure and compromised airways in developing infants, paving the way for evidence-based diagnosis and therapeutic intervention.

For more information about the Neonatal and Infant Feeding Disorders Program and its breakthrough research, visit [NationwideChildrens.org/Feeding-Disorders](http://NationwideChildrens.org/Feeding-Disorders) or call (614) 722-5155.

**Welcome Center Services and Ronald McDonald House**

Welcome Center Services supports the unique needs of patients and families arriving from out of town, including housing, transportation, financial information and resources.

Services include our unique Ronald McDonald House Sleep Well, Get Well program, which offers a free hotel stay (the night before any inpatient or outpatient procedure) to families traveling from outside of the central Ohio area. We understand that in order to prepare for a hospital visit, a good night’s rest the night before, for both the patient and family, is essential.

**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.

**Financial Information and Resources**

We have extensive experience in supporting families and working through questions related to coverage for health care services available through commercial and public insurance, as well as other sources of national and international funding.

**Welcome Center Services and Office Hours**

Nationwide Children’s Hospital  
700 Children’s Drive  
Columbus, OH 43205  
Phone: (800) 792-8401 Ext. 59866  
Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ronald McDonald House provides a “home-away-from-home” for families with seriously ill children. Located across the street from Nationwide Children’s Hospital, families from outside Franklin County are referred to Ronald McDonald House for short- and long-term stays. Following a referral, families are contacted when a room is available.

For complete information, please visit [NationwideChildrens.org/Ronald-McDonald-House](http://NationwideChildrens.org/Ronald-McDonald-House) or contact the Ronald McDonald House directly:  
711 E. Livingston Ave.  
Columbus, OH 43205  
Phone: (614) 227-3700  
Fax: (614) 227-3765

**Make a referral.**

Call the Physician Direct Connect Line toll free at (877) 355-0221, for physician consults and to coordinate a patient transport, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Nationwide Children's Hospital  
700 Children's Drive  
Columbus, OH 43205-2696  
[NationwideChildrens.org/Neonatology](http://NationwideChildrens.org/Neonatology)

