

Our locations

Children's - Minneapolis
2525 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

Children's - St. Paul
345 North Smith Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

For directions, please visit our Web site at
www.childrensmn.org.

Contact us

If you would like more information about the Cleft Clinic, please contact our office at (612) 813-6888 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Nursing/Clinic Coordinators

Kristin Kemper, CNP
Cheryl Salter, BSN, RN
Jacqueline Gustafson, CNP

Medical Directors

James Sidman, MD
Medical Director, Cleft and Craniofacial Clinic, Children's - Minneapolis

Martin Lacey, MD
Co-Medical Director of the Cleft Clinic, Children's - St. Paul

Chris Tolan, MD
Co-Medical Director of the Cleft Clinic, Children's - St. Paul

For medical professionals

To make referrals or for a nursing consultation, call the clinic at (612) 813-6888 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For referrals or assistance 24 hours a day, you may also call the toll-free Children's Physician Access (612) 343-2121, Twin Cities Metro, or toll-free (866) 755-2121.

In addition, pediatric nurse practitioners are available in clinic for feeding advice or consultation. For more information, call (612) 813-6888.

Clinics are located in both Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Cleft Clinic

**Locations in both
Minneapolis and St. Paul**

(612) 813-6888 Clinic

(612) 813-6889 Fax

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Cleft lip and palate are among the most common birth defects. Approximately one newborn in 700 has cleft lip, cleft palate, or both. Nevertheless, many families never hear of cleft lip or palate until their child is born.

While it can be a scary and confusing time, we want you to know that help is available.

The Cleft Clinic at Children's has been working with families and their children for many years. We provide comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services for children up to age 21 who have:

- a cleft lip and/or palate.
- a sub-mucous cleft palate.
- speech concerns (hyper-nasal speech, for example).
- dental concerns related to the above conditions.

Our job is to provide the best possible course of treatment, with a confident, healthy child as our goal.

Specialists are available for your child's care

While each child is different, those with cleft lip or palate conditions usually call for treatments from a variety of medical specialists. For families of newborns, learning how to feed is the main focus of care. Surgery, dental needs, speech and language difficulties, hearing, or school issues may then be addressed, with the advice or expertise of our team.

At Children's, we have the experience and skills to develop a treatment plan that's right for your child. The cleft team includes specialists in audiology, pediatric dentistry, pediatric surgery, child psychology, plastic surgery, prosthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, speech and language pathology, otolaryngology, orthodontics, and genetic counseling.

In addition, we have the support of all other Children's specialists.

We work with you, on behalf of your child

Communication is key. That's why all specialists involved with your child meet, as a team, face-to-face with your family regularly. During those meetings, everyone is updated on the course of treatment. Questions get answered. We also share information with your child's physician or care provider in a detailed summary of the team's evaluation and recommendations. We also provide assistance with follow-up during the year.

The format of the cleft clinic allows the family to meet with a variety of specialists at the same time. We are conveniently located at Children's on both the Minneapolis and St. Paul hospital campuses to meet your individual needs.

Support beyond medical care is important, too

We know that it's helpful for families to know that they are not alone, and that there are resources available to them. We offer a packet of information on cleft lip and palate, including an informational video called "Babies Born with Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate – A Road Well Traveled."

Many families have found support by talking with other parents who have children with cleft lip and palate. Children's offers an ongoing parent support group, as well as the opportunity to talk individually with other families.

Billing

Your family's insurance, HMO, PPO, or Medical Assistance will be billed for services provided. Some services may include an out-of-pocket cost to the family that is not covered by your insurance.

If you have questions about benefits, deductibles, co-payments, or prior authorization contact your insurer's customer service representative. It is the family's responsibility to obtain prior authorization if needed.

If you have financial concerns, please call the clinic, (612) 813-6888.