

Gastroenterology

The Gastroenterology Practice at Children's Hospital Central California specializes in the diagnosis and management of infants, children, and adolescents with gastrointestinal and nutrition disorders. We provide inpatient, outpatient and emergency care to approximately 5,000 patients annually. Children's gastroenterologists perform about 1,000 endoscopy procedures each year. About two-thirds are upper GI procedures and one-third are lower GI procedures. The practice treats many conditions such as unspecified abdominal pain, esophageal reflux, gastritis, gastrointestinal bleeding, esophagitis and irritable bowel syndrome.

A pediatric gastroenterologist has completed a pediatric residency and a fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology.

Children with liver, nutritional and gastrointestinal disorders should be referred to a pediatric gastroenterologist.

Children's Access Center

24/7 access for referring physicians
(866) 353-KIDS (5437)

Outpatient Referral

Referral forms online at: www.childrenscentralcal.org/services/medicaloffice/refer
FAX: (559) 353-8888

Gastroenterology Office Numbers

Main Number: (559) 353-5745
FAX: (559) 353-5760
Physician Line: (559) 353-5751

Physician Liaison: (559) 353-7229

Medical Staff:

Marvin Ament, MD
Michael Finch, MD
Roberto Gugig, MD
Michael Haight, MD
Syed Hamid, MD
Muslim Jami, MD
Richard Quan, MD

Pediatric Gastroenterology Consultant Reference Guide

Condition	Pre-referral Workup	When to Refer
Chronic Abdominal Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History and physical - Labs: CBC, ESR, CRP, UA, complete metabolic panel, lipase, stool guiac - Radiographic studies: supine and upright plain abdominal films 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children with periumbilical abdominal pain without vomiting
Chronic Non-Bloody Diarrhea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History and physical - Labs: stool studies - culture, O&P, clostridium difficile toxin, stool WBCs, stool guiac, stool for fat, CBC, ESR - If there is failure to thrive consider sweat test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persistent diarrhea over two weeks - Chronic otitis media - Chronic hoarseness
Gastroesophageal Reflux	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History and physical - Growth charts - Labs: CBC, stool guiac - Radiographic studies: ultrasound if considering pyloric stenosis, upper GI series 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persistent spitting up in infants with poor weight gain, or symptoms consistent with esophagitis (persistent crying or hematemesis) - Recurrent pneumonia - Possible aspiration pneumonia - Intractable asthma unresponsive to usual medications - Asthmatic attacks that reoccur predominantly at night time
Failure to Thrive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History and physical - Growth charts - Labs: Complete CBC, sedimentation rate, prealbumin, complete metabolic panel, UA - Dietary evaluation performed prior to referral - Social evaluation (parental divorce/separation, parental custody, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patients with slow weight gain falling under the 5th percentile or dropping off age-appropriate growth curves - Parental heights and weights as adults at age 18
Bloody Stools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History and physical - Labs: CBC, ESR, stool culture, O&P, stool for clostridium difficile toxin, stool WBCs, complete metabolic panel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persistent blood in stools with or without diarrhea

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Insurance Plans*

Aetna EPO/HMO/PPO

AllCare IPA

Bakersfield Family Medical Center/ Heritage Physician Network

Blue Cross HMO/ Prudent Buyer PPO/ Healthy Families EPO

Blue Cross Medi-Cal/ Healthy Families HMO

Blue Shield HMO/ PPO/ Healthy Families

Capp Care (Beachstreet)

Catholic Healthcare West-Bakersfield

CCS – California Children's Services

Central California Alliance for Health

Central Valley Medical Group CVMG

Choice Care

Cigna/ Greatwest

Delano Regional Medical Group

EHS IPA (Blue Cross Managed Medi-Cal Patients/Healthy Families)

Emmanuel Employee Benefit Plan

First Health/ CCN

Foundation HealthCare Administrators/ California Foundation for Medical Care

GemCare IPA/ Managed Care Systems

Health Net HMO/ PPO/ Healthy Families/ Healthy Kids

Health Net Medi-Cal / CalViva

Health Plan San Joaquin Medi-Cal/ Healthy Families

Hill Physician Medical Group

Interplan

Kaiser HMO/ Healthy Families/ Medi-Cal

Kern Health Systems Medi-Cal/ Healthy Families

Key /Mosaic Medical Group IPA

LaSalle IPA (Blue Cross Managed Medi-Cal)

Medicare

MediCal – California State

MedCore Medical Group

Multiplan/ PHCS

Sante IPA

Sutter Gould Medical Foundation

Sutter Hospital System (Modesto Memorial, Memorial Los Banos, Sutter Tracy)

TriWest (Formally TRICARE/CHAMPUS)

United HealthCare /PacifiCare

Universal Care

* Contracted Status subject to change. If you have questions or to verify coverage please call 559.353.8800/888.824.5439