

About Pediatric MS

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is usually considered an “adult-onset” disease, typically diagnosed between 20 and 50 years of age. Since MS is not widely recognized as a childhood disorder, diagnosis is often missed or delayed. In addition, many of its symptoms are similar to those of other pediatric neurological conditions. An estimated 8,000-10,000 children have multiple sclerosis in the United States, and another 10,000-15,000 experience disorders that may be related to MS.

Children with MS can experience weakness, fatigue, numbness and tingling, vision problems, loss of balance, difficulty concentrating or remembering, and seizures. Many of these symptoms are “invisible,” vary in intensity, and come and go randomly.

Support Programs

Children and teens with MS and their families may face unique challenges. The National MS Society supports educational and psychosocial options for this special population.

- *Children and Teens with MS: A Network for Families*
- Information and referral
- *Kids Get MS Too: A Guide for Parents*
- *Mighty Special Kids—an activity book for children with MS*
- Educational events
- Virtual communities for parents and teens
- Online publication for teens
- Networking opportunities

For information on the Pediatric MS Centers of Excellence or for programs and services available to your child and family call: 1-866-KIDS W MS (1-866-543-7967) or e-mail: childhoodms@nmss.org.

Additional information can be found at: www.nationalMSsociety.org/pediatricms

Caring for Children and Teens with Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

Innovative Pediatric MS Care

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society has established the first-of-its-kind network of Pediatric MS Centers of Excellence in the United States. These centers offer diagnosis and treatment to all children under the age of 18 who have MS and other central nervous system demyelinating conditions such as acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM), optic neuritis (ON), transverse myelitis (TM) and neuromyelitis optica (NMO).



The Pediatric MS Centers of Excellence were established through the National MS Society's Promise: 2010 initiative targeting vital MS research and care.

Services Offered

Each center offers the latest in comprehensive care and treatment for children with MS and other related disorders, as well as the information and support their families need.

- Evaluation and diagnosis, involving both pediatric and adult neurologists
- Team of professionals that offers:
 - › Nursing services
 - › Cognitive and psychological evaluation
 - › Rehabilitation assessment (physical, occupational, speech and language)
 - › Vision care
 - › Neuroimaging (MRI)
 - › Individual case management and social services to ensure proper care and support
 - › Information and resources for patients and families
 - › School support

A priority of this network is to provide comprehensive care to children with central nervous system demyelinating conditions, regardless of ability to pay. Financial assistance is also available for travel and accommodation according to need.

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Pediatric MS Centers of Excellence

Center for Pediatric Onset Demyelinating Disease at Children's Hospital of Alabama, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, Ala.

Appointment line: 205-996-7633
www.uab.edu/cpodd

UCSF Regional Pediatric MS Center, University of California, San Francisco, Calif.

Appointment line: 415-353-3939
www.ucsfhealth.org/pedms

Partners Pediatric MS Center at the Massachusetts General Hospital for Children, Boston, Mass.

Appointment line: 617-726-2664
www.partnersmscenter.org/pediatric

Mayo Clinic Pediatric MS Clinic, Rochester, Minn.

Appointment line: 507-538-2555
www.mayoclinic.org/pediatric-center

Pediatric MS Center of the Jacobs Neurological Institute, State University of New York, Buffalo, N.Y.

Appointment line: 877-878-7367
www.pedms.com

National Pediatric MS Center at Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook, N.Y.

Appointment line: 631-444-7802
www.pediatricmscenter.org