

Congenital Hypothyroidism Developmental Evaluation Clinic



All infants get blood tests shortly after birth to screen for certain treatable conditions such as congenital hypothyroidism. In Washington, the Newborn Screening Program of the State Department of Health conducts this testing. Congenital hypothyroidism (CH) needs to be identified early so that affected babies can get proper treatment.

Over 30 years ago when there was no CH screening for infants, affected children developed serious problems with growth and development, including mental retardation. Fortunately today, infants with CH can be given a daily pill containing thyroid hormone.

The purpose of the **Developmental Evaluation Clinic** is to check each child's developmental progress. Although treated infants have an excellent chance of growing and developing normally, they are at an increased risk of developing some problems related to CH.

At the Clinic, each child receives specialized assessments that are not ordinarily part of a child's primary medical care. If parents choose not to use the services of this Clinic, we urge them to seek comparable assessments elsewhere.

If a hearing test or speech/language assessment is needed, Clinic staff can refer families to appropriate resources.

Families also have an opportunity to meet with other families who have children with CH.

There is no charge for four clinic visits including two before age 3, one around age 6, and one around age 12. Children with CH can first be seen shortly after diagnosis (between six and twelve months of age). Additional assessments can be done at any age if there are concerns, and the CH Clinic can bill your insurance for those visits.

Each child is seen individually, and assessment results are confidential. At a parent's request, the clinic is happy to send reports to a child's doctor or school. Information is not released except with the permission of the child's parent or legal guardian.

The Developmental Evaluation Clinic is ordinarily held at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle. The Clinic is located at the **Center on Human Development and Disability (CHDD)** at the Medical Center.

This clinic is supported by The University of Washington, The Newborn Screening Program of the Washington State Department of Health, and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Public Health Service.

For more information contact:

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