

Who should be referred to Children's Special Health Services sub-specialty medical clinics?

A Quick Guide for Physicians

Children's Special Health Services (CSHS) holds sub-specialty clinics in eight LDH regions of the state for children up to age 21 years who meet both financial and medical eligibility criteria. All children seen in CSHS sub-specialty clinics are encouraged to have a primary care physician, or medical home. A copy of all sub-specialty notes is sent to the primary care physician after every CSHS sub-specialty clinic.

- **Financial criteria:** Any child with Medicaid/Healthy Louisiana meets CSHS financial criteria. Children who do not qualify for Medicaid/Healthy Louisiana may be eligible for CSHS based on the financial eligibility formula that accounts for all family expenses. A CSHS staff member can assist families to determine their financial eligibility.
- **Medical criteria:** Children with certain serious chronic illnesses or disabilities which cause significant limitations in major life activities are eligible for CSHS sub-specialty clinics.
Children who cannot access sub-specialty care in the private sector and children who need "wrap around services" such as care coordination, parent support, assistance with obtaining medications, formulas, equipment, and linkage to other services in the community should be referred to CSHS.
- **What do CSHS sub-specialty clinics provide?** Sub-specialty clinics provide sub-specialist care, parent support, care coordination, transition services, nutritional counseling, medical tests and procedures such as lab, X-rays, EKGs, hospitalization for medical or surgical diagnostic and treatment services, therapies such as speech, physical, or occupational, and medical equipment and supplies such as wheelchairs and prostheses. Prescription medications and special formulas for the CSHS eligible condition may also be provided. CSHS will bill private insurance, Medicaid, and Healthy Louisiana plans. CSHS may also be the payer of last resort for eligible children with no other source of payment.
- **What sub-specialty clinics are available?** Sub-specialty clinics in each region may vary over time with provider availability. Some clinics meet monthly, every other month, or quarterly. Call the CSHS office in your region to find out which clinics are held in your area. Additionally, refer to the CSHS web page: <http://www.dhh.la.gov/CSHS>.
- **How do I refer?** Documentation of the child's diagnosis or suspected health condition from a physician, nurse practitioner, or audiologist is needed when families apply to CSHS. You can provide this information by either completing Section 5 of the CSHS application (diagnosis confirmation) or giving the family other written confirmation of the diagnosis (note on a prescription pad or letter or copy of medical record).

Families may apply to CSHS in either of two ways: (1) complete an application and mail to the regional CSHS office; OR (2) apply in person at the public health unit in the parish where they reside. If the family chooses to apply at the health unit, tell them to call the health unit to schedule an appointment. The family may call the regional CSHS office at the number listed below if they have any questions about CSHS. **Applications are available from CSHS regional offices or on the CSHS web page:** <http://www.dhh.la.gov/CSHS>.

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| Region I Metropolitan- Family Resource Center | New Orleans tel (504) 896-1340 | fax (504) 896-1360 |
| Region II Capitol | Baton Rouge tel (225) 242-4890 | fax (225) 342-4707 |
| Region III Teche | Thibodaux tel (985) 447-0896 | fax (985) 447-0973 |
| Region IV Acadian | Lafayette tel (337) 262-5616 ext 106 | fax (337) 262-1310 |
| Region V Southwest | Lake Charles tel (337) 478-6020 ext 6032 | fax (337) 475-8613 |
| Region VI Central | Alexandria tel (318) 487-5282 ext 204, 207, & 239 | fax (318) 487-5481 |
| Region VII Northwest | Shreveport tel (318) 676-7488 | fax (318) 676-7783 |
| Region VIII Northeast | Monroe tel (318) 361-7282 | fax (318) 362-3016 |
| Region IX Southeast | Hammond tel (985) 543-4165 ext 6 | fax (985) 543-4171 |

CSHS Clinics

audiology: (Regions 5 & 8) Identification and treatment of children with hearing loss. Services include hearing and speech evaluations, hearing aid fittings, hearing aid repairs including loaner aids, habilitative plans. Priority given to infants and young children with severe-profound loss, sensorineural loss, high frequency loss, and hearing loss due to neurofibromatosis. **Inappropriate:** central auditory processing problems, ear diseases not resulting in hearing loss.

cardiology: (Region 8) Diagnostic and treatment services including X-rays, EKG and lab work and referrals for cardiac catheterization and surgery. For example, congenital lesions, conduction disorders, valve defects, hypertensive heart disease, chronic, rheumatic heart disease. **Inappropriate:** functional murmurs, nondysfunctional and stable cardiac conditions needing only monitoring, hypertension with no cardiac involvement, bacterial or viral infections during acute treatment.

cleft lip and palate: (Regions 4, 6, & 8) Multidisciplinary team of physicians and other disciplines. For example, unilateral or bilateral cleft lip and/or palate or velopharyngeal insufficiency. **Inappropriate:** children needing only orthodontia or cranio-facial anomalies without cleft lip or palate.

cystic fibrosis: (Regions 1 & 7) Two certified CF centers serve Louisiana with a multidisciplinary team consisting of pulmonologists, respiratory therapists, nurses, social workers, and nutritionists for any child/youth with a confirmed CF diagnosis. **Inappropriate:** children with other respiratory disorders or malabsorption syndromes. Services provided include prescription medications, special formulas, pulmonary studies, equipment and supplies, home health nursing, nutritional counseling, and hospitalizations. **Region 1** CF is located at Tulane University, 504-988-6253. **Region 7** CF is located at University Health-Shreveport, 318-675-6094

neurology: (Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, & 9) For example, seizure disorders, movement disorders such as Tourette's Syndrome, degenerative neurologic conditions, cerebral palsy, neuromuscular disorders, acquired neurological disabilities such as s/post encephalitis or meningitis, stroke or traumatic encephalopathy. **Inappropriate:** primary diagnoses such as headache, developmental delay, dyslexia, ADHD, neurocarcinoma, acute CNS infections, acute injuries, and autism. **Region 2** neurology services are limited to seizure disorders as the primary diagnosis.

neurosurgery: (Region 2) Diagnosis of conditions amenable to surgical treatment and rehabilitation. For example, hydrocephaly, microcephaly, vascular malformations of the brain, altered CSF flow, post-acute head injuries, neural tube defects. **Inappropriate:** acute injuries, comatose patients.

ophthalmology: (Region 2) Diagnosis, treatment including surgery, post-enucleation prosthesis, glasses and contacts. For example, strabismus, amblyopia, cataracts, glaucoma, ocular neurofibromatosis or hemangioma, primary retinopathies, retinal detachments, congenital malformations of the eye. **Inappropriate:** acute infections, visual acuity problems better than 20/100 in one eye, dacryostenosis.

orthopedic: Clinics include **general orthopedic** (Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, & 8) and **scoliosis** (Region 2). Conditions treated vary and include congenital and acquired deformities such as cerebral palsy, clubfoot, Legg Perthes, slipped capital femoral epiphysis, congenital hip dislocation or dysplasia. Spinal cord clinic provides a team approach to neural tube defects, spinal cord injuries, and other conditions affecting the spinal cord. **Inappropriate:** acute conditions such as fractures, malignancies, flat feet, internal tibial torsion, minimal scoliosis. Services include diagnosis and treatment, including surgery, equipment such as braces, appliances, wheelchairs, and other DME, medications, and nutritional counseling.

otology: (Regions 5 & 8) Medical and surgical treatments for disorders of the ear including chronic otitis media, cholesteatoma, sensorineural hearing loss, hearing loss related to cleft palate, and malformations of the ear. **Inappropriate:** disorders of the sinuses, nose or throat, facial palsies, malformations of the outer ear with no hearing loss, upper respiratory disorders.

plastic surgery: (Regions 4, 6, & 8) Provide services to children in need of reconstructive surgery for deforming or function limiting scars, hemangiomas, contractures, congenital anomalies such as microtia, or keloids. Children with cleft lip/palate are treated in these clinics when there is no cleft lip/palate clinic. **Inappropriate:** minor cosmetic surgery services.