

# pediatric gastroenterology



## the impact of COVID-19 on constipation

The division of pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition at Dayton Children's has been working with the Dayton Children's Health Partners on a quality improvement (QI) initiative to decrease advanced healthcare utilization for kids with constipation. As part of the QI project, data is being collected on children with constipation presenting to the emergency department (ED). We utilized this data and the recent COVID-19 pandemic to examine the effects of in-person schooling on the number of patients being evaluated in the ED for treatment of constipation.



In-person schooling did correlate with the number of ED visits for treatment of constipation. June and July were consistently the months with the lowest rate of constipation-related ED visits from 2017 to 2019 when schools were not in session. Constipation-related ED visits decreased with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 and remained low through the rest of the year. This started to increase again with the return to in-person learning in early 2021 and decreased in summer, approximating the prepandemic pattern.

### about us

**Dayton**  
Ohio



**1967**  
founded

**181**

beds



**88,020**

visits each  
year to our ED  
Level I pediatric  
trauma center

### highlighted programs

- Aerodigestive program
- Celiac disease program
- Congenital gastrointestinal surgery program
- Constipation co-management program
- IBD program
- IBD surgery decision support tool
- IBD resource center
- Video visits

## optimization of nutrition care for G-tube patients



Development of a process to optimize nutrition care for G-tube and GJ-tube patients in an effort to provide more consistent nutrition care for this patient population. The goal is to increase the percentage of GI patients with a G-tube or GJ-tube seen by a dietitian annually in the GI clinic by 11.2% by May 1, 2022.

## family support and involvement for IBD patients



ImproveCareNow (ICN) is a Learning Health Community where patients, parents, clinicians, researchers, improvers and friends support each other and work together to improve care and health for people living with IBD. ICN is now offering CIRCLE as part of their ImproveCareNow Community for family support and involvement. We are encouraging our IBD patients and families to sign up for CIRCLE to engage in bettering the care and information that is shared among our IBD population.

When families sign up, they receive a bi-weekly email where they can read stories of how patients, parents, clinicians and researchers are working together to improve care and outcomes by participating in quality improvement projects, and they even get a sneak peek of new IBD tools and resources along with the most up-to-date research for pediatric IBD care. After signing up, patients and families can choose to share their stories, and interact with other navigating their IBD journey.

## internal registry for IBD outcomes

In the last year, the ImproveCareNow core team at Dayton Children's collaborated with the IT department to create an internal registry that measures important outcomes related to the care of children with inflammatory bowel disease. These outcomes include items such as Physician's Global Assessment, nutrition status, growth status, surgery admissions and inpatient admissions that are tracked in order to improve care for patients, and to decrease the amount of time they are in active disease.

