



# pediatric gastroenterology



Read Lucas's story on the back

## transforming care for IBD

By engaging with ImproveCareNow (ICN), our team has seen remission rates increase more than 20 percentage points. This translates into 40 additional families who no longer require steroids, hospitalization or surgeries. Our current remission rate averages 85%, and we have consistently been above the ICN target of 83% for the last couple of years. Dayton Children's provides national leadership for ImproveCareNow with Shehzad Saeed, MD, FAAP, AGAF as the overall network's clinical director for its 100+ international care centers, and Kelly Sandberg, MD, MSc as a learning lab co-chair for 28 centers in the United States.



### 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

## IBD surgery shared decision tool

Through grant funding provided by ImproveCareNow, the "Should I have IBD surgery?" tool was co-designed by experts from pediatric gastroenterology, surgery, psychology, parents and patients from Dayton Children's Hospital.

This [web-based tool](#) assesses readiness for IBD surgery by asking patients a series of questions about their disease, treatment options and concerns about surgery. In addition to the tool, the toolkit

contains a guide for clinicians, pathway to surgery and patient introduction template. All toolkit materials remain fully accessible to the public.

Over 100+ care centers in the United States and in 10 countries worldwide have accessed the "Should I have IBD surgery?" tool to provide their patients with excellent support and resources as they make decisions about IBD surgery.

**450+**

webpage visits to the "Should I have IBD surgery?" decision tool

**10**

countries around the world are using the decision tool and toolkit

**492**

views of "[Dear Ostomy](#)", a video developed by Dayton Children's based on a teen's view about her ostomy

# annual visit and transition program



Unique among centers with IBD programs is a nurse-practitioner-led annual visit. This multidisciplinary clinic incorporates annual health maintenance, including screenings for mental health, bone, eye, and skin health, and immunizations. It also includes self-management support, including

medication adherence, social needs and school planning, transition readiness and emotional needs.

Our nurse-practitioner-developed transition readiness program is reviewed during this annual visit for patients aging out of pediatric care.

## crohn's disease warrior

In late 2019, Lucas Hickernell started experiencing intermittent stomach pains. As a goalkeeper on a select soccer team, Lucas' parents, Paul and Elise, thought the pain could be related to a sports injury.

On Thanksgiving Day, Lucas experienced pain so severe that his parents made an appointment with his primary care provider who ordered labs, cultures and an ultrasound. The results of his tests led his provider to believe he might have Crohn's disease.

Lucas was referred to Dayton Children's where he saw pediatric gastroenterologist, Jubin Mathews, DO. Dr. Mathews performed endoscopies and obtained imaging that showed Lucas to have stricturing Crohn's disease. He was started on medications and almost overnight there was a transformation in his health. He started putting on weight, his energy started coming back and the pain was going away.

Today, Lucas visits Dayton Children's every eight weeks for infusions and will continue to do so until there is a cure for Crohn's disease. Until then, Lucas and his family know that he can continue to thrive with a chronic disease.

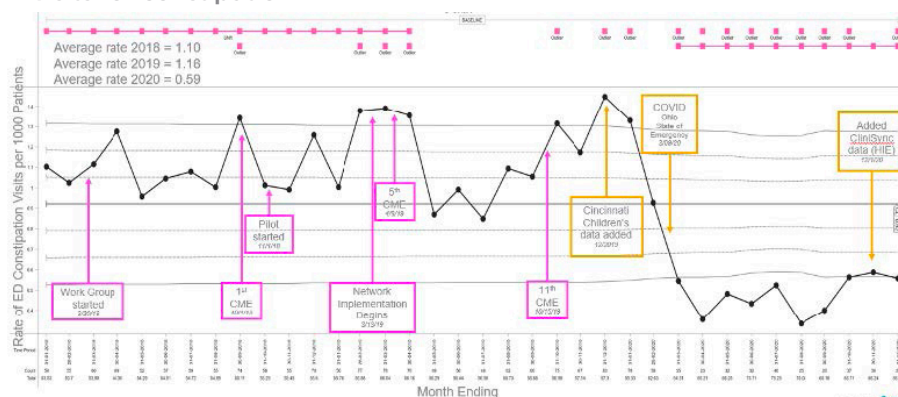
Read [Lucas' full story](#) and show your support for this Crohn's disease warrior.

## constipation co-management

Functional constipation is a common pediatric condition that can be effectively managed in primary care. For two consecutive years, in 2018 and 2019, constipation ranked in the top 5 reasons for emergency department (ED) visits at Dayton Children's. Through the work of our clinically integrated network and partnering primary care providers, we have reduced ED visits for constipation by 46%.

[Learn more.](#)

### ED visits for constipation



## making care convenient

Dayton Children's is making it easier than ever to schedule an appointment in the gastroenterology clinic. Online scheduling is available for in-person, new patient appointments only. Visit [childrensdayton.org/schedule-gastro-appointment](https://childrensdayton.org/schedule-gastro-appointment) to schedule an appointment for your patients in the gastroenterology clinic.

Video visits are currently available for some appointment types and conditions. If your patient family is interested in a virtual appointment, advise the family to ask their scheduler if a video visit is an option for care.

