

physical medicine and rehabilitation

what is physical medicine and rehabilitation?

The Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) department at Dayton Children's Hospital, also known as physiatry, specializes in the diagnosis and management of children with physically disabling conditions. Physiatrists (PM&R physicians) work closely with a multidisciplinary team including therapists, nurses, orthotists, prosthetists, psychologists, social workers and dietitians. They also collaborate with neurosurgery, neurology, orthopaedics, therapy and sports medicine on a regular basis. Dayton Children's PM&R department coordinates an individualized treatment plan to meet each child's medical, behavioral, educational and social needs.



why is my child being referred to a physiatrist?

caregiving

Physiatrists address caregiving, mobility, daily activities (like dressing, bathing and eating), educational and work activities, and lifespan issues.

medication

Physiatrists prescribe medications for muscle and nerve problems, attention and memory issues, behavior, sleep, pain, bowel and bladder concerns, respiratory or gastrointestinal issues, and many other medical problems, just like other physicians.

spasticity management

This includes prescribing specialized medications and invasive procedures.

bracing

Physiatrists also prescribe braces/splints to improve arm or leg position or function, and prosthetics for limb loss.

school

Physiatrists advise about school and work programming and behavioral and cognitive/learning issues.

treatment

Depending on the injury, illness or disabling condition, some physiatrists may treat patients using the following procedures or services:

- Spasticity treatment (Botulinum toxin injections, intrathecal baclofen pump trial and implants)
- Prosthetics and orthotics
- Disability/impairment assessment
- Complementary alternative medicine

By focusing on the whole body, physiatrists are able to accurately pinpoint problems and enhance a child's lifestyle without surgery.

