



# Gene MaP

## Genetics for Montana Providers

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Children's  
Miracle Network  
Hospitals

*Shodair Children's Hospital is Montana's only Children's Miracle Network affiliated hospital. Children's Miracle Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for premier children's hospitals across North America. For more information, visit: [www.cmn.org](http://www.cmn.org)*

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*Please direct your ideas or comments regarding this newsletter to: [mtgene@shodair.org](mailto:mtgene@shodair.org)*

### Cancer Risk Assessment Outreach Clinics Now Offered

The Medical Genetics Department at Shodair Children's Hospital now offers genetic counseling outreach clinics designed especially for cancer risk assessment patients. A monthly cancer risk assessment clinic is offered in Bozeman at Bozeman Deaconess Cancer Center, and in Missoula at the Montana Cancer Center at St. Patrick Hospital, as well as at Community Medical Center. Patients are also seen in Helena as needed.

"With these clinics, patients can be seen sooner than in our general genetics outreach clinics. Patients are seen in the cancer clinics where they are receiving treatment, making it easier and more comfortable for them," said Amy Crunk, a board certified genetic counselor who works closely with Dr. Jim Reynolds, a medical geneticist. Both of these members of Shodair's Genetics team have completed the City of Hope Intensive Course on Cancer Risk Assessment.

Patients to refer to the cancer risk assessment clinics include anyone diagnosed with cancer before the age of 50, multiple types of cancer in one person, multiple family members with the same or related cancers, or anyone concerned about cancer in their family. To make a referral or get more information, call 1-(800) 447-6614 or (406) 444-7530.

### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

By Amy Crunk, MS, CGC

We are all aware of the physical features that accompany Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). They include growth deficits, a smooth philtrum, thin upper lip, and smaller eye openings, giving the eyes a wide-spaced appearance. Not all children exposed to alcohol prenatally have the physical characteristics of FAS, but they may still have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, or FASD.

Children with FASD may not have the physical characteristics of exposure, but have the behavioral characteristics of alcohol exposure. These children may have learning disabilities (especially with math), trouble with verbal skills, poor organization and planning skills, difficulty grasping cause and effect, difficulty following multi-step directions, poor judgment, and an inability to apply knowledge to new situations. They can also have trouble with being overly active, easily distracted, or moving from one activity to the next. These children may be considered immature, and have trouble understanding how others feel. Diagnosing a child with FASD can help caregivers provide the best care for the child.

At our genetic outreach clinics, we see children who have been exposed to alcohol prenatally. During an evaluation for prenatal alcohol exposure, we first attempt to document alcohol exposure during the pregnancy. Then we assess whether the child has any of the physical as well as the behavioral features of prenatal alcohol exposure. It can be difficult to diagnose FASD in a child. We investigate all aspects of the condition, the pregnancy history, physical characteristics, and behavior, before a diagnosis can be made.

(over)

If you have questions about FASD or a wish to refer a child, please contact the Department of Medical Genetics at Shodair Children’s Hospital at (406) 444-7530 or toll-free at 1-800-447-6614. You may also visit our website at [www.shodair.org](http://www.shodair.org) or email us at [mtgene@shodair.org](mailto:mtgene@shodair.org) for more information.

## Genetic Outreach Clinics Schedule

Did you know that we see most of our clinical genetic patients not in Helena, but in outreach clinics through out the state? Each month, we have clinics in Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, and Missoula, as well as in Helena. We also see patients in Butte, Kalispell, Browning, Miles City, and Sidney.

We offer outreach clinics to address general genetic concerns, as well as specialty outreach clinics specifically designed to address cleft palate, metabolic, and cancer risk cases.



<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Type</u>
February 2	Bozeman	Cancer
February 2	Missoula	General
February 3	Missoula	Cleft
February 4	Missoula	Cancer
February 8	Helena	General
February 9	Great Falls	General
February 16 & 17	Billings	General
February 18	Billings	Cleft
February 22	Helena	Metabolic
February 23	Bozeman	General
February 25	Great Falls	Cleft
March 1 & 2	Missoula	General
March 2	Bozeman	Cancer
March 4	Helena	Cleft
March 9	Great Falls	General
March 15	Helena	Metabolic
March 16	Missoula	Cancer
March 23	Bozeman	General
March 24	Butte	General
March 23 & 24	Billings	General
March 31	Missoula	Cleft
April 1	Browning	Cleft

To make a genetics referral, visit our website at [shodair.org](http://shodair.org), or fax patient information to our Clinic Coordinator, Barb Doggett, at (406) 444-1064. You may also call Barb at 1-(800)-447-6614 or (406) 444-7530.

## Genetic Fun Fact

If you were to start reciting the order of all the letters (the ATCGs) in your genetic code tomorrow morning at a rate of 100 each minute, 57 years would pass before you reached the end (provided that you did not stop to eat, drink, sleep, use the bathroom, etc.)



***We hope you enjoy this quarterly newsletter; please feel free to forward it your colleagues. To request additions or removals from our email list, contact us at [mtgene@shodair.org](mailto:mtgene@shodair.org).***