



For Immediate Release
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Subject: *Shodair to Host First Montana Metabolic Day*

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HELENA — The metabolic team at Shodair Children's Hospital is busy planning the first-ever Montana Metabolic Day, which is set for Saturday, August 15 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Carroll College in Helena.

“We want to provide people who have been diagnosed with PKU or another metabolic condition an opportunity to come together from all corners of Montana to discuss the importance of managing metabolic disorders. They'll also have a chance to meet other people with special metabolic needs and their families, and ask questions of metabolic healthcare professionals,” said Shodair Administrator Jack Casey.

Montana Metabolic Day will include presentations by experts in metabolic conditions, a cooking demonstration on foods that are appropriate for PKU patients, and fun activities for children with metabolic conditions.

PKU (phenylketonuria) is a rare, inherited metabolic disease that results in mental retardation and other neurological problems when treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life. When treatment is begun early and well-maintained, affected children can expect normal development and a normal life span.

Because of the positive outcome when children are treated early, newborn screening for PKU is carried out in every state in America. In Montana's 2007 legislative session, lawmakers passed a measure requiring that newborns be screened for 29 conditions, including PKU, most of which are genetic in nature and can cause brain damage, mental retardation, or death. If detected in time, these conditions can be controlled by specialized diets and other treatment methods. The screening is overseen by the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, which contracts with Shodair for clinical follow-up services for infants who test positive during the screening process.

Attendance at Montana Metabolic Day is free, but attendees must register by August 3 by calling Shodair's Newborn Screening Follow-Up Program Coordinator, Anne Seliskar, at 1-800-447-6614 or (406) 444-1099.

The event is sponsored by BioMarin, a biopharmaceutical company specializing in therapeutics to patients with rare genetic diseases.

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About Shodair Children's Hospital—Shodair Children's Hospital provides acute and residential psychiatric care for Montana children and adolescents, and clinical and laboratory medical genetic services to people of all ages. Shodair is a non-profit, non-denominational facility and the state's only Children's Miracle Network hospital. The medical genetics department at Shodair is the state's medical genetics program, and provides comprehensive services to patients at the Helena campus and in communities throughout the state via outreach clinics.

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