

Partners **in** Care Journal

Continuing Dialogue Between Primary and Specialty Care

SECOND QUARTER 2017



FEATURED

Gillette Motor Delay Clinic is a Resource for Primary Care
By Marcie Ward, MD

Building a Path for Patients Who Have Disabilities
By Tom Novacheck, MD





Gillette Motor Delay Clinic is Here as a Resource for Primary Care

By Marcie Ward, MD

It can be challenging to deliver news to a family that their child has a disability. But I imagine that it is much more challenging to understand that your child is not meeting their motor milestones, and not know why.

The “not knowing” is often worse, for the family, as well as for their primary care provider who is noting the same concerns. Sometimes these concerns resolve in time, and sometimes they persist.

In either case, I’ve found that most families would prefer to be educated about their child’s motor delays, rather than remain in uncertainty. This is why the Gillette Motor Delay Diagnosis and Treatment Clinic exists. We’re here to serve as a resource for you and your patients.

If you are seeing a child who isn’t meeting their motor milestones, send them to our team for initial evaluation. We’ll work with you to figure things out. We are happy to echo reassurances that the child’s delays are benign. And in the event that the team finds definitive clinical concerns, we will work with you to provide the patient and their family with the necessary workup, education and treatment options to care for the child moving forward. We would prefer to err on the side of caution and see the child, rather than not see them and miss an opportunity to help.

Your patient will receive a comprehensive evaluation from the most experienced pediatric neurology, orthopedic and rehabilitation specialists in our region. We’re all in the room together, and use our individual approaches to evaluation and diagnosis collaboratively to determine the best approach to the child’s care.

Some of our most satisfying interactions with families in this clinic include merely giving them reassurance that we will follow their child specifically for their area of concern, even if we expect that the delay is benign and we expect it will resolve.

We know that you know your patients best. We would like to partner with you in answering these sorts of questions. Continuing this ongoing dialogue between primary and specialty care providers is the best care model for our patients. Following the evaluation, we’ll send you our evaluation and treatment recommendations and we are happy to discuss their care at any time. We are available to help if you have concerns about your patients’ development, and you should feel free to call our offices to discuss at any time.

Thank you,
Marcie Ward

For more information about the Motor Delay Diagnosis and Treatment Clinic at Gillette, or to learn how you can refer your patients, please call our dedicated One-Call phone number for providers: 651-325-2200 or 855-325-2200 (toll-free).

Comprehensive Assistive Technology On-Site

Many children and teens who have disabilities require assistive technology services to help manage their conditions. At Gillette, your patients can work with experts who provide special technology for complex conditions.

“Our work is integrated through collaboration with therapists and other specialists,” says Bradley Fisher, manager of Assistive Technology at Gillette. “What was once very much an art and craft has been complemented by a healthy dose of science and technology. This means that we’re able to design braces and orthoses that are perfectly tailored to each individual patient.”

What We Do

To meet your patients’ needs, our internationally

recognized experts work in teams to develop custom treatment plans that might include assistive devices like:

- Artificial limbs (prostheses).
- Braces (orthoses).
- Computer-access equipment and electronic aids to daily living.
- Evaluations and mounts for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices.
- Power wheelchair controls.
- The Gillette CranioCap® orthosis to treat deformational plagiocephaly.
- Wheelchair seating.

Through collaboration with therapists and other specialists, our certified orthotists, prosthetists and seating practitioners support full patient care.

Building a Path for Patients Who Have Disabilities

By Tom Novacheck, MD

What makes Gillette distinct from other pediatric health care providers in our region is that we are specifically focused on providing specialty care for children and adults who have cognitive or physical disabilities. But this synopsis doesn't begin to cover the breadth and depth of care that we provide. This is largely due to the fact that many of our patients have conditions that present few easy answers.

For example, the parent of a child who has a cleft palate is usually going to find out about it before their child is born or at the time of birth. Most of the time, their providers will know exactly what will be needed and to whom to refer. The caregivers will have time to prepare, and will be presented with a very clear path of next steps and treatment options.

The parents of children who have cerebral palsy don't usually have that path. Occasionally the diagnosis is apparent right away, but oftentimes it takes longer. The symptoms aren't always obvious. They may sense that something is wrong, but it lingers in doubt. Their path to the future is unclear.

We want you to know that Gillette is a place where these questions can be answered; where uncertainties can be laid to rest. Our organization was founded to create a path to success for our patients.

Our patients grow up here. Many come to us as infants and go on to receive treatment throughout their lives. The variability inherent in the patient population we treat requires a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach that involves neurology, orthopedic surgery, gait analysis, rehabilitation medicine, assistive technology, neurosurgery, as well as extensive physical, occupational, and speech therapy services.

We do all of this under one roof at Gillette, yet we don't do primary care. Which means that our relationship with you is viewed very much as a partnership.

We know that many of our patients may require some kind of surgical intervention as they reach certain developmental stages, so we'll work with you proactively to keep you informed of how their underlying condition may affect their overall health.



We know that the patients we see likely represent a small fraction of your overall patient population. That said, our patients also require more attention. If you feel confident to send them to us, we'll work with you to get them where they can be.

Thank you,
Tom Novacheck
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon

"I like to partner with other providers and families to help children and young adults achieve happiness, comfort, and fulfillment to the greatest extent possible given any underlying conditions."



Partners in Care Journal is a publication of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.

Direct comments and questions to
AndreasOAarsvold@gillettechildrens.com.

Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare provides specialized health care for people who have short-term or long-term disabilities that began during childhood. We help children, adults and their families improve their health, achieve greater well-being and enjoy life.

To refer a patient,
call 651-325-2200
855-325-2200 (toll-free)
gillettechildrens.org

EDUCATION AND EVENTS FOR PROVIDERS

Partners in Care Webinar Series



Wednesday, July 12
7 – 8 a.m.

**John Garcia, MD and
Tom Novacheck, MD**

**Managing Complex Children
via Telemedicine**



Tuesday, Aug. 22
7 – 8 a.m.

Walter Truong, MD
Orthopedic Trauma



Tuesday, Sept. 12
Noon – 1 p.m.

**Angela Sinner, MD, and
Jennifer Nelson, PT**
Return to Play after
Concussion

Medical Conferences

Thursday, Oct. 26
8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Pediatric Quality and Patient
Safety Conference**
Saint Paul RiverCentre

Friday, Nov. 17
7:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Minnesota Memorial Pediatric
Orthopedic Symposium**
Surly Brewing Co.

Visit the website to register
gillettechildrens.org/events