

# The Secret in the Couch and other Tales of Eating Disorders in Adolescence



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Medical Director of Eating Disorder Clinic



## Disclosures

I have no commercial relationships to disclose.



## Goals and Objectives

### Goals

- Explore Feeding and Eating Disorders and Treatment for Adolescents

### Objectives

- Recognize & correctly identify eating disorder diagnoses
- Describe the medical complications associated with each eating disorder diagnosis
- Formulate initial steps to maintain medical stability and initiate treatment linkage



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## Abbreviations Used

- Anorexia Nervosa = AN
- Bulimia Nervosa = BN
- Binge Eating Disorder = BED
- Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder = ARFID



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## Introduction

Eating Disorders are complex disorders that require multifaceted and multidisciplinary care at all stages of treatment

### Limited Research

Due to stigma associated, recognition of the eating disorder and engagement in treatment is often difficult and may be delayed



## Prevalence

20 million women and 10 million men will have an eating disorder at some point in their lives in the US.

### Lifetime prevalence:

- AN: 0.9% of women and 0.3% of men
- BN: 1.5% of women and 0.5% of men
- BED: 3.5% of women and 2.0% of men



## **Pediatric Prevalence and Significance**

In youth:

- 5.2% of the girls met DSM-5 criteria for AN, BN, or BED.

Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric illness

Up to 20% of individuals with chronic AN will die as a result of their illness



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## **Anorexia Nervosa**

Restriction of intake, leading to significantly low body weight in the context of age, sex, developmental trajectory and physical health.

\* Elimination of amenorrhea

Intense fear of weight gain with persistent behavior interfering with weight gain & significantly low weight.

Disturbance in the way one's body weight or shape is experienced, and persistent lack of recognition of seriousness of current low body weight.



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## Anorexia Nervosa

Restricting type – in the past 3 months, no binge/purge, only restriction, excessive exercise

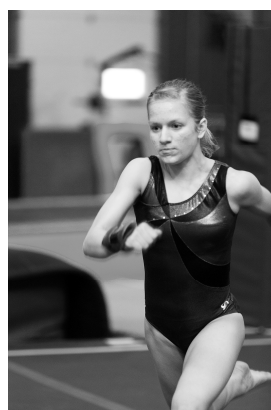
Binge Eating type – recurrent episodes of binge/purging (laxatives, vomiting, diuretics, enemas)

Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
BMI > 17	BMI = 16	BMI = 15	BMI < 15



## Anorexia Nervosa Case Study

Sarah is a 15 year old female, gymnast, gets straight A's in school and presents to your clinic for her yearly physical.



## Sarah

Her Mom reports that Sarah is “a perfectionist”

About 6 months ago she decided to “be healthier”

Increasing intake of fruits and vegetables

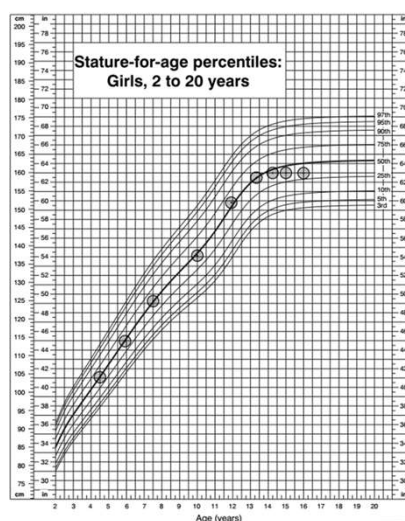
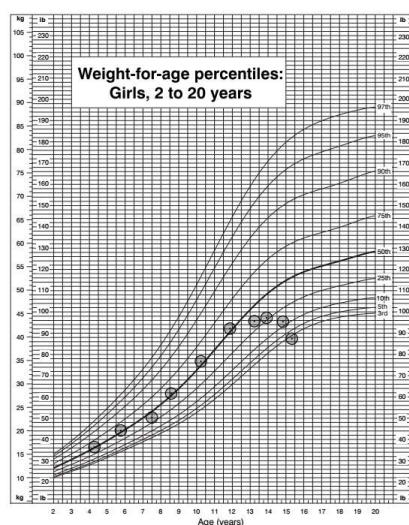
Over time she starting avoiding sugar, dairy, & bread and has stopped going out to eat

Parents have noticed Sarah staring at herself in the mirror and frequently pinching at her stomach



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## Sarah's Growth Chart



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## Bulimia Nervosa

Recurrent episodes of binge eating with both:

1. Eating a larger amount than what most would eat
2. Lack of control over eating

Inappropriate compensatory behaviors to prevent weight gain

Compensatory behaviors occur once per week for 3 months

Self-evaluation is unduly influenced by body shape/weight

Does not exclusively occur in episodes of AN

Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
1-3	4-7	8-13	Over 14



## Bulimia Nervosa Case Study

Emma is a 16 year old female with worsening mood in the past 6 months. Mother is concerned and has heard disturbing sounds when Emma is in the bathroom. Mom is also concerned that Emma might be hurting herself.



## Emma

Emma says she is upset & stressed with mother's second divorce. Her grades have declined.

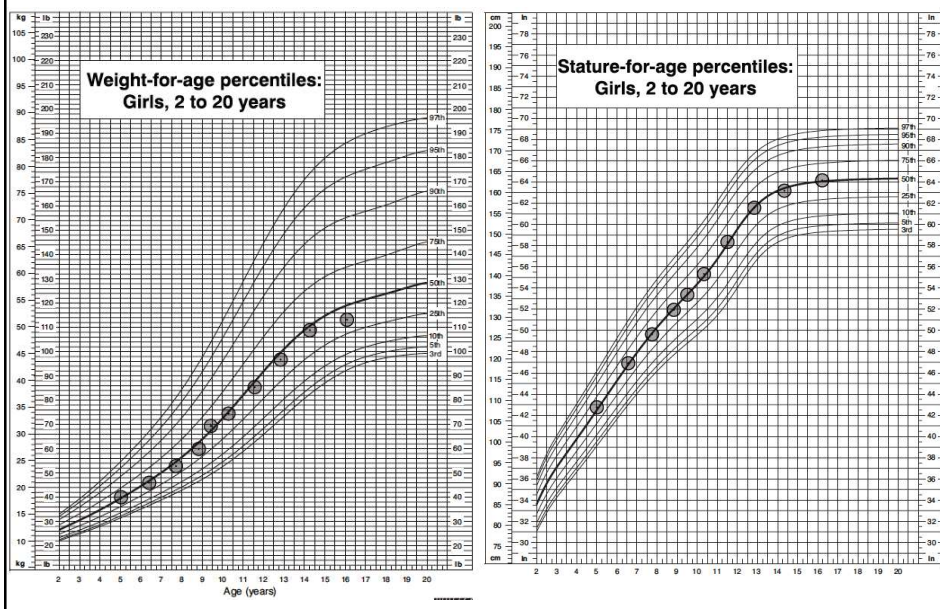
She cuts on her wrists to "release the sadness" and cuts on her stomach to "get rid of the fat."

Emma reports purging 1x/day for 3 months to lose weight because none of her friends are "big" like her.

She skips breakfast and several times per week she eats large amounts after school and then purges.



## Emma's Growth Chart





## Binge Eating Disorder

Recurrent episodes of binge eating

1. Eating a larger amount than most people would eat
2. Lack of control over eating

Binge episodes associated with 3 or more of:

1. Eating much more rapidly
2. Feeling uncomfortably full
3. Eating large amounts when not feeling hungry
4. Eating alone because of embarrassment about how much eaten
5. Feeling disgusted, depressed or guilty afterwards



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## Binge Eating Disorder

Marked distress

Once per week for 3 months

Not associated with inappropriate  
compensatory behavior

Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
1-3	4-7	8-13	Over 14



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## Binge Eating Case Study



Kenna is a 17 year old female who presents to your clinic wanting to lose weight.



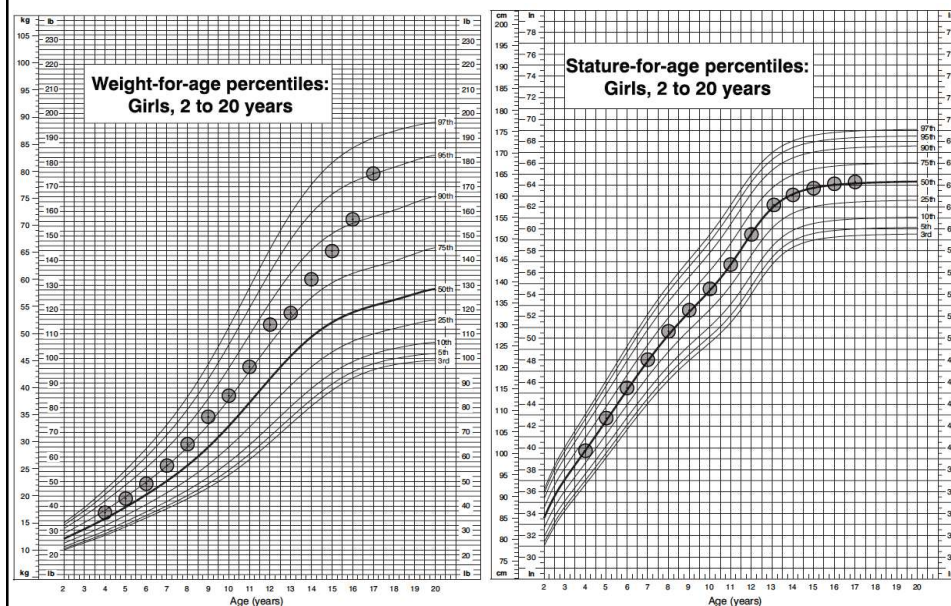
## Kenna

Kenna reluctantly endorses overeating and loss of control nightly. States she feels great guilt and regret, always starts the day wanting to “eat as little as possible” to make up for last night’s eating.

Does not eat breakfast, eats vegetables for lunch, after school eats a small snack, dinner with the family and when others are asleep, she eats a box of cereal with milk, half of a box of Oreos, and a pint of ice cream.



## Kenna's Growth Chart



## Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder

Failure to meet nutritional/energy needs as associated with one or more of the following:

1. Significant weight loss
2. Significant nutritional deficiency
3. Dependence on enteral feeds or nutritional supplements
4. Marked interference with psychosocial functioning

Not better explained by lack of food or cultural factors

Does not occur exclusively during course of AN, BN, or as part of another medical or mental disorder

## Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder Case Study

Ben is a 11 year old male with a history of anxiety who had a choking episode six months ago. Parents are concerned he is eating less and less.



### Ben

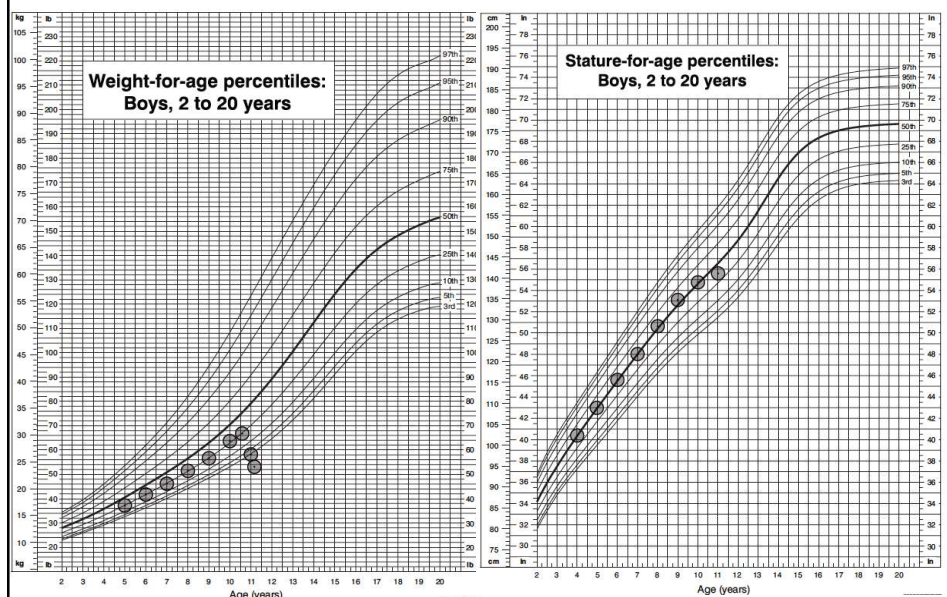
Ben says he was at the fair and choked on a peanut.

Since that time, he stopped eating nuts, then stopped eating hard foods, then only would drink liquids or pudding.

He says he is really afraid of choking again, worries about it all of the time.



## Ben's Growth Chart



## Otherwise Specified Feeding or Eating Disorder

Symptoms characteristic of a feeding and eating disorder that causes clinically significant distress or impairment predominate but do not meet the full criteria for any of the previous disorders.

- Atypical Anorexia Nervosa
- Bulimia Nervosa (of low frequency and/or duration)
- Binge-eating disorder (of low frequency and/or duration)
- Purging disorder



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## Medical Complications

Directly tied to the eating disorder behaviors rather than specific diagnosis

Loosely there are 3 categories of concern:

- Malnutrition Concerns
- Purging Concerns
- Bingeing Concerns



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## Medical Complications

Malnutrition Concerns

- Direct result of starvation & weight loss
- Most common with AN Restricting Type, ARFID, & OS-FED



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## Medical Complications

### Purging Concerns

- Directly correlated with method & frequency of purging behaviors
- Most common in AN Binge-Purge Subtype, BN, & OS-FED



## Medical Complications

### Bingeing Concerns

- Related to the metabolic concerns of obesity
- Most common with BED

**Most** of these are reversible



## Malnutrition Concerns

### Cardiovascular

- Bradycardia
- Hypotension
- Sudden Death
- Mitral Valve Prolapse
- Pericardial Effusion

## Malnutrition Concerns

### Cardiovascular

- Bradycardia
- Hypotension
- Sudden Death
- Mitral Valve Prolapse
- Pericardial Effusion

### Endocrine/Metabolic

- Amenorrhea
- Osteopenia & Osteoporosis
- Thyroid Testing Abnormalities
- Hypoglycemia
- Electrolyte Abnormalities



## Malnutrition Concerns

<b>Cardiovascular</b> Bradycardia Hypotension Sudden Death Mitral Valve Prolapse Pericardial Effusion	<b>Endocrine/Metabolic</b> Amenorrhea Osteopenia & Osteoporosis Thyroid Testing Abnormalities Hypoglycemia Electrolyte Abnormalities
<b>Dermatologic</b> Alopecia Lanugo Pruritis Acrocyanosis	

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<b>Neurologic</b> Cerebral atrophy	

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<b>Neurologic</b> Cerebral atrophy	<b>Ophthalmic</b> Lagophthalmos

## Purging Concerns

### Cardiovascular

- Arrhythmia
- Diet Pill Toxicity
- Palpitations
- Emitene Cardiomyopathy

## Purging Concerns

### Cardiovascular

- Arrhythmia
- Diet Pill Toxicity
- Palpitations
- Emitene Cardiomyopathy

### Endocrine

- Irregular Menses

## Purging Concerns

<b>Cardiovascular</b> Arrhythmia Diet Pill Toxicity Palpitations Emitene Cardiomyopathy	<b>Endocrine</b> Irregular Menses
<b>Dermatologic/Other</b> Russel's Sign Dental erosions	

## Purging Concerns

<b>Cardiovascular</b> Arrhythmia Diet Pill Toxicity Palpitations Emitene Cardiomyopathy	<b>Endocrine</b> Irregular Menses
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## Bingeing Concerns

**Cardiovascular**  
Hypertension  
Coronary Artery Disease  
Stroke

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**Cardiovascular**  
Hypertension  
Coronary Artery Disease  
Stroke

**Endocrine/Metabolic**  
Obesity  
Irregular Menses  
Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

## Bingeing Concerns

<b>Cardiovascular</b> Hypertension Coronary Artery Disease Stroke	<b>Endocrine/Metabolic</b> Obesity Irregular Menses Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus
<b>Sleep Disorders</b> Obstructive Sleep Apnea	

## Bingeing Concerns

<b>Cardiovascular</b> Hypertension Coronary Artery Disease Stroke	<b>Endocrine/Metabolic</b> Obesity Irregular Menses Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus
<b>Sleep Disorders</b> Obstructive Sleep Apnea	<b>Gastrointestinal</b> Gall bladder disease Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH)



## Primary Care Provider Role

“Recognizer” of the disorder

Explain medical seriousness of eating disorders

Assist with medical stability assessment & weight monitoring

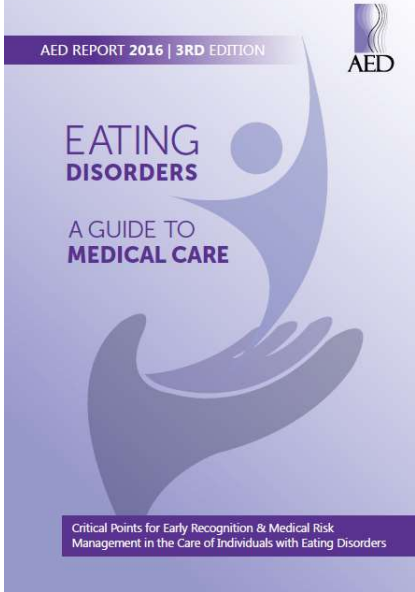
Empower the parents in decision making

Referral resource for families & therapists

Consultant for therapist and families




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<https://www.aedweb.org/index.php/education/eating-disorder-information/eating-disorder-information-13>

**The guide offers:**

- Presenting signs & symptoms
- Medical Concerns
- Goals of treatment
- Timely interventions
- Tips on ongoing management



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## Medical Evaluation

Comprehensive medical history & exam

Weight history

- Amount/rate of weight loss
- Highest, lowest, goal/target weights

**NO SPECIFIC BMI =  
EATING DISORDER OR  
MALNUTRITION**



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## ASPEN Malnutrition Guidelines

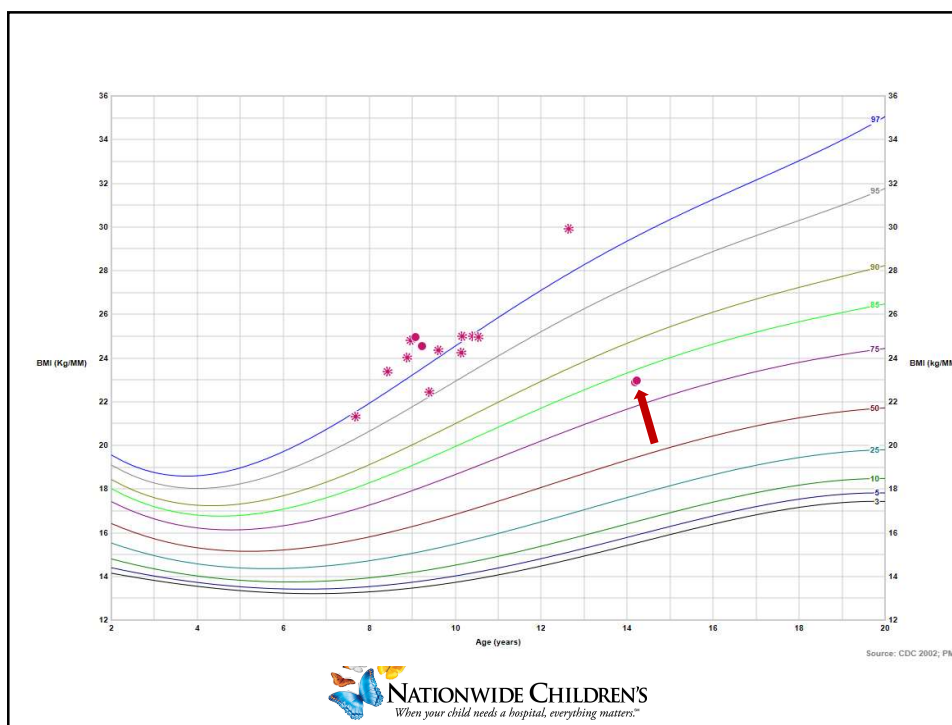
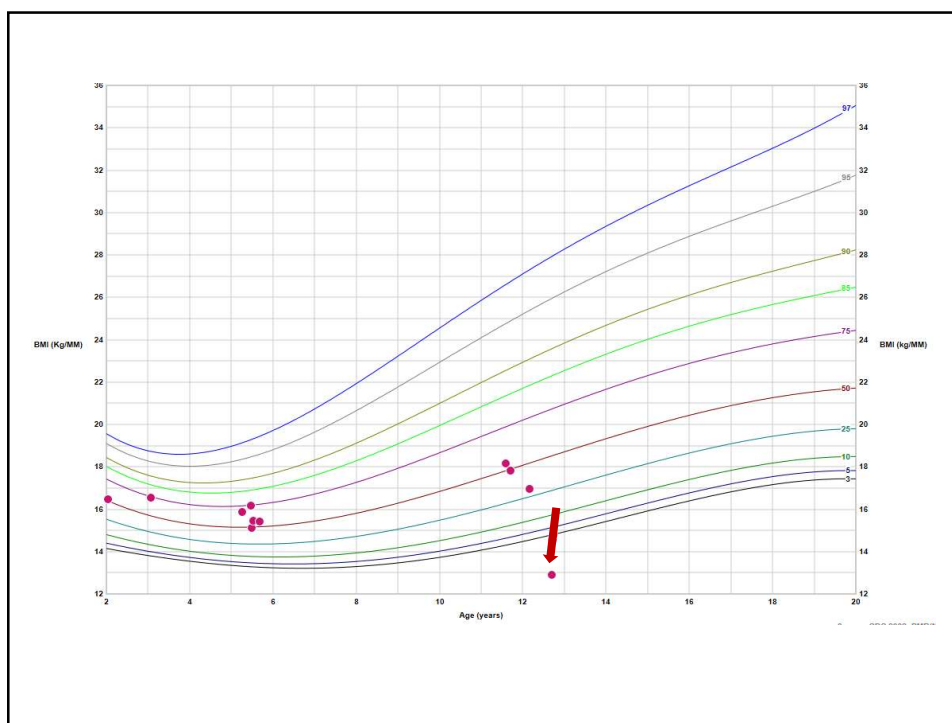
Indicators for Pediatric Malnutrition: 2 years – 18 years

Indicator	Mild	Moderate	Severe
BMI for Age Z-score	-1 to -1.9	-2 to -2.9	-3 or less
Height Z-score	-	-	-3 or less
MUAC Z-score (up to 5y, WHO)	-1 to -1.9	-2 to -2.9	-3 or less
Weight Loss	5% usual body weight	7.5% usual body weight	10% usual body weight
Decline in BMI Z-score	Decline of 1 Z-score	Decline of 2 Z-scores	Decline of 3 Z-scores
Inadequate Nutrient Intake	51-75% of energy/protein needs	26-50% of energy/protein needs	≤ 25% of energy/protein needs

Reference: CDC, excluding Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)



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## Medical Evaluation

Complete physical exam  
Standing & Recumbent Pulse & BP  
Oral temperature  
Height, weight (post-void, gown only), BMI  
Clues to purging  
Full skin examination  
Clues to other illnesses



## Medical Evaluation

CBC  
Chem 10  
    Electrolytes, BUN/Cr, Glucose, Ca, Mg, Phos  
Total Protein, Albumin, AST, ALT  
Amylase, Lipase  
Thyroid Function Testing  
ESR  
Gonadotropins (amenorrhea work-up)



## Medical Evaluation

### EKG

- Bradycardia, pulse <60bpm
- Long QTc (>444-455) → arrhythmia

### Bone Density Evaluation (DEXA Scan)

- If amenorrhea > 6 months



## Hospitalization

### Most common admission diagnoses:

- Bradycardia
- Hypokalemia
- Acute Food/Liquid Refusal



## Hospital Management

# FOOD IS YOUR MEDICINE

Goal of 1-2 pounds weight gain/week or weight stabilization

Eating is not negotiable

Basal caloric needs + 500-1000calories/day



## Refeeding Syndrome

Shift of fluid & electrolytes when beginning to refeed a malnourished patient

Clinical findings can be non-specific

Cardiac/Respiratory Failure

Potentially fatal

**RARE**



## Refeeding Syndrome Risk Factors

Chronic malnourishment  
Little to no energy intake for > 10 days  
Anorexia Nervosa  
Rapid weight loss  
Diuretic, laxative, insulin abuse  
Alcohol abuse  
Abnormal electrolytes prior to renourishment



## Refeeding Syndrome

Starvation/Malnutrition



## Refeeding Syndrome

Starvation/Malnutrition

Glycogenolysis,  
gluconeogenesis  
and protein  
catabolism



**Refeeding  
Syndrome**



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## Refeeding Syndrome

Starvation/Malnutrition

Glycogenolysis,  
gluconeogenesis  
and protein  
catabolism



Protein, fat, mineral,  
electrolyte, & vitamin  
depletion

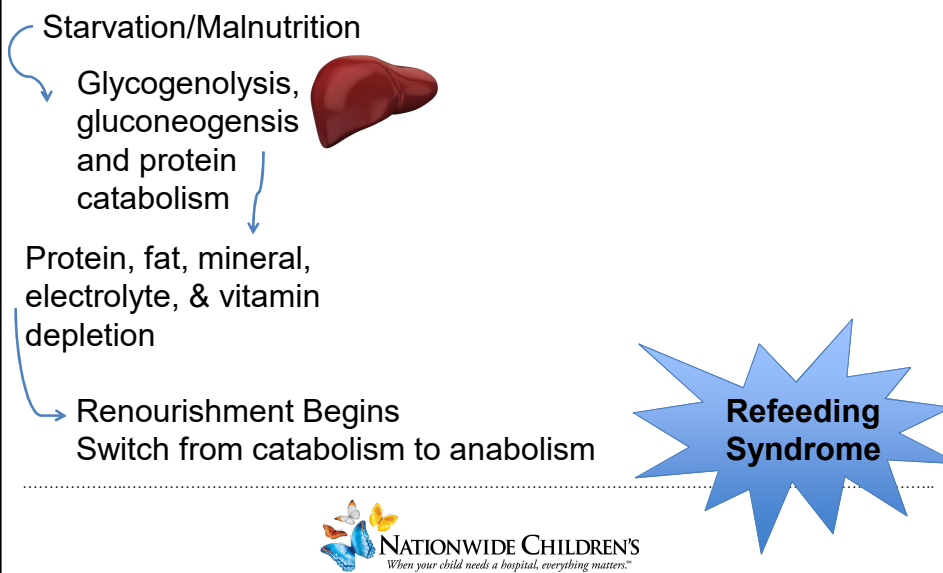
**Refeeding  
Syndrome**



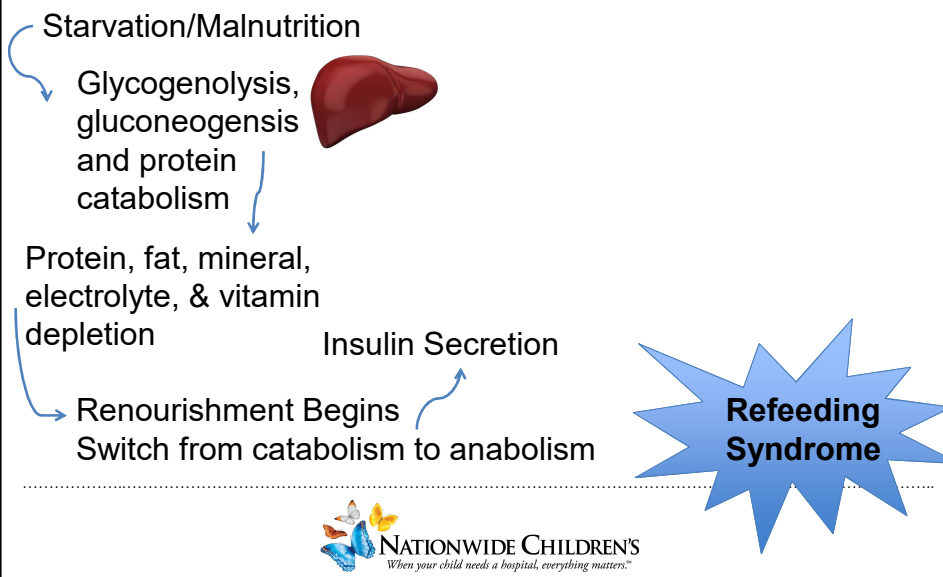
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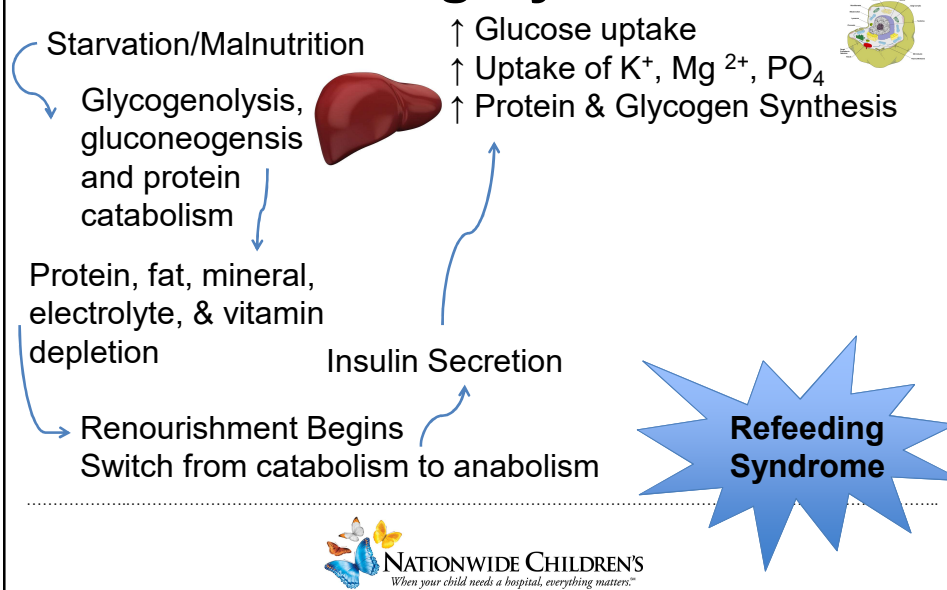
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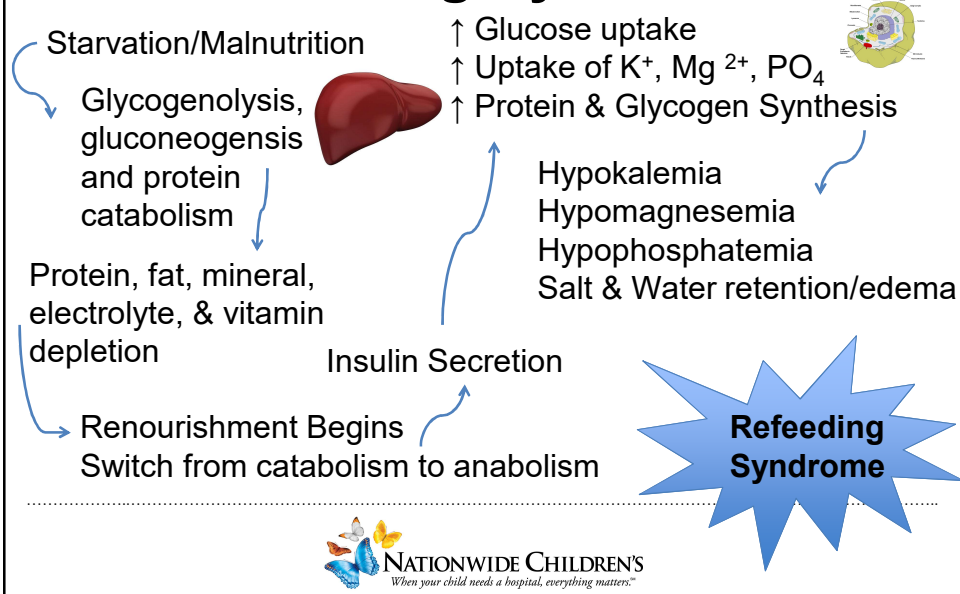
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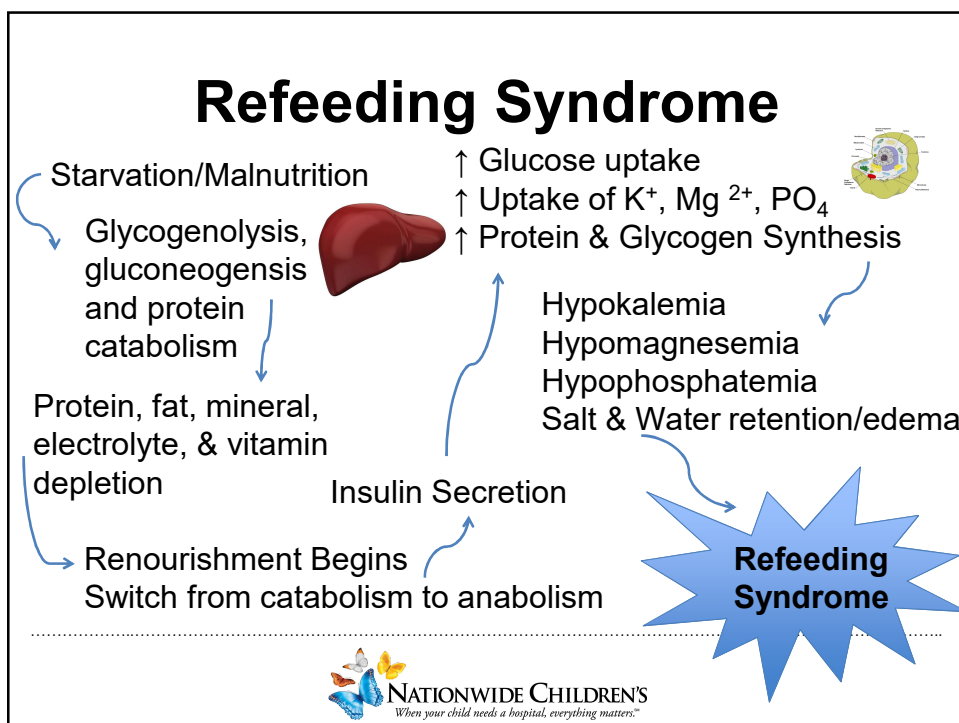


## Refeeding Syndrome



## Refeeding Syndrome





## Refeeding Syndrome

Awareness & Prevention

Refeeding *only* on inpatient unit for at-risk patients

Advancing nutrition *slowly*

Monitoring electrolytes while elevated risk continues through 2 weeks

Correcting electrolyte imbalances while refeeding

## NCH Eating Disorder Clinic

**Mission:** To provide multidisciplinary, family centered care for youth with needs across the eating disorders continuum in an environment that is dedicated to education and academic development.

**Vision:** Be a leader in pediatric eating disorder care by contributing to the treatment of every child, support for every family, and education within the community.



## Multidisciplinary Assessment

- Behavioral Health Therapist
- Dietitian
- Medical Provider



## Multidisciplinary Assessment

- 3-4 hours in length
- Assessing current maladaptive thoughts, behaviors, and activity patterns
- Assessing previous growth, malnutrition, and need for weight restoration
- Making a level of care recommendation



## Level of Care Recommendation

Residential Care (out of state)  
Inpatient Medical Hospitalization  
Partial Hospitalization (PHP)  
Intensive Outpatient (IOP)  
Outpatient Management  
Care elsewhere or no care needed



## Treatment

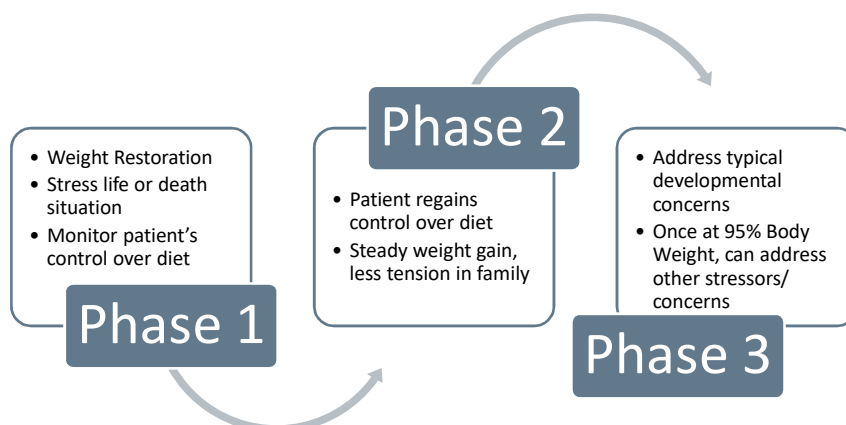
### Family Based Treatment (FBT)

#### Principles of FBT:

- Parents are not to blame
- Parents are vital to therapeutic success
- Parents are responsible for weight restoration
- Separate the child from the illness
- Non-authoritarian approach



## Family Based Treatment



## Eating Disorders Team

- Therapists
- Dietitians
- Adolescent Medicine Physicians/NP
- Nurses
- Psychiatrist/PA
- Occupational Therapists
- Massage Therapist
- Chef
- Teacher
- Front Desk Staff
- Parents and Family



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## Partial Hospitalization Program

	Monday	Tuesday		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8:00-8:30	Arrival and Vitals 8:00-8:30*	Home Breakfast		Home Breakfast	Arrival and Vitals 8:00-8:30*	Arrival and Vitals 8:00-8:30*	All MEALS and SNACKS at HOME	8:00-8:30
8:30-9:00	Breakfast				Breakfast	Breakfast		8:30-9:00
9:00-9:30	School				School and snack/ **Family Rounds*	School		9:00-9:30
9:30-10:00	Daily Check-in					Daily Check-in		9:30-10:00
10:00-10:30								Daily Check-in
10:30-11:00	Snack	Home Snack	Home Snack	Snack	10:30-11:00			
11:00-12:00	Therapy Group	Arrival and Vitals Daily Check-in	Arrival and Vitals Daily Check-in	Therapy Group	Therapy Group	11:00-12:00		
12:00-1:00	Lunch and Distress Tolerance*	Lunch and Distress Tolerance*	Lunch and Distress Tolerance*	Lunch and Distress Tolerance*	Lunch and Distress Tolerance*	12:00-1:00		
1:00-1:30	Therapy Group	School	School	Therapy Group	Therapy Group	1:00-1:30		
1:30-2:00						1:30-2:00		
2:00-2:30	Therapy Group	Nutrition Exposure Therapy Group	Therapy Group	Therapy Group	Check-out with Caregivers	2:00-2:30		
2:30-3:00					2:30-2:45			
3:00-3:30	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Home Snack	2:45-3:15		
3:30-4:15	Occupational Therapy 3:30-4:15	Occupational Therapy 3:30-4:15	Occupational Therapy 3:30-4:15	Occupational Therapy 3:30-4:15		3:15-4:00		
4:15-4:30	Check-out with Caregivers	Nutrition Group with caregivers	Meal Coaching/ support group for caregivers	Body Image		Check-out with Caregivers	4:00-4:30	
4:30-4:45					4:30-4:45			
4:45-5:00					4:45-5:00			
5:00-5:30					Home Dinner	Dinner with Caregivers	Dinner with Caregivers	Home Dinner
5:30-6:00	5:30-6:00							
6:00-7:00		Psycho- education with Caregivers	Psycho-education with patients and Caregivers			6:00-7:00		
7:00-7:30	Home Snack	Check out with Caregivers	Check out with Caregivers	Home Snack	Home Snack	7:00-7:30		

## **Synopsis of Schedule: PHP**

Monday-Friday

Approximately 8 hours/day

Medical management: 1/week

Psychiatry management: 1/week

Massage therapy: 2/week

Occupational therapy: 5/week

School: 5 hours/week



## **Synopsis of Schedule: PHP**

Psychotherapy sessions offered during programming hours with mixture of individual, group, family sessions

Individual therapy 2/week

Family therapy 1/week

Dietitian Appointments 1/week + Group nutrition education





[illegible]

## Synopsis of Schedule: IOP

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

Approximately 3 hours/day

Medical management: every 2-3 weeks

Occupational therapy: 2 times per week

Psychiatric management: every 2 weeks

## Group & individualized Dietitian Appointments



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## **Synopsis of Schedule: IOP**

Psychotherapy sessions offered during programming hours with mixture of individual, group, family sessions

Individual therapy 1/week

Family therapy 1/week



## **Synopsis of Schedule: Outpatient**

Individual & Family Therapy:

1/week to 1/month

Dietitian Appointments:

1/week to 1/month

Medical management:

1/month to 3 months

Psychiatry management: as needed



## Where are we located?



### Downtown Close To Home Center at 500 E. Main St.

📍 500 East Main Street  
3rd floor  
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*When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.™*

## Referrals

Referral to the Eating Disorder Program  
providers/parents can all our Behavioral  
Health Resource Coordinator, Abigail Jones

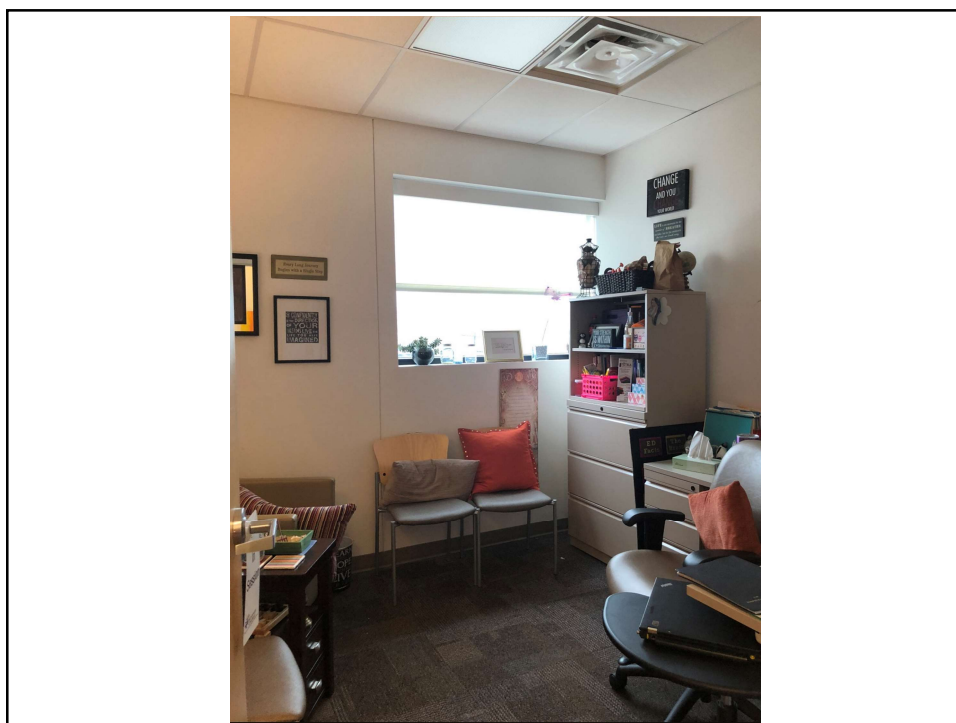
**(614) 355-8656**

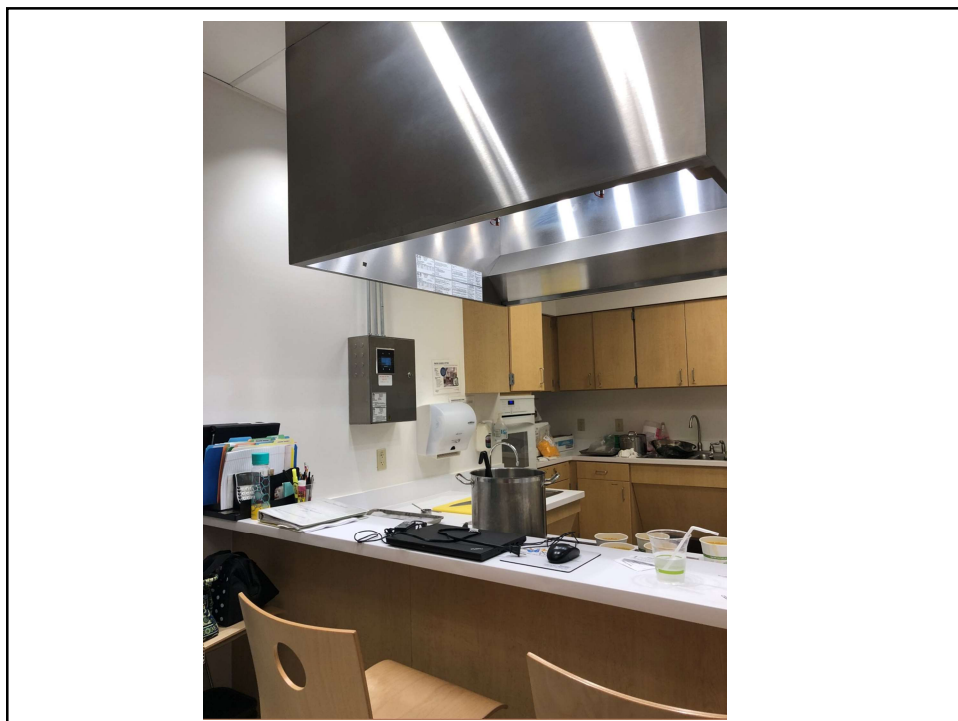
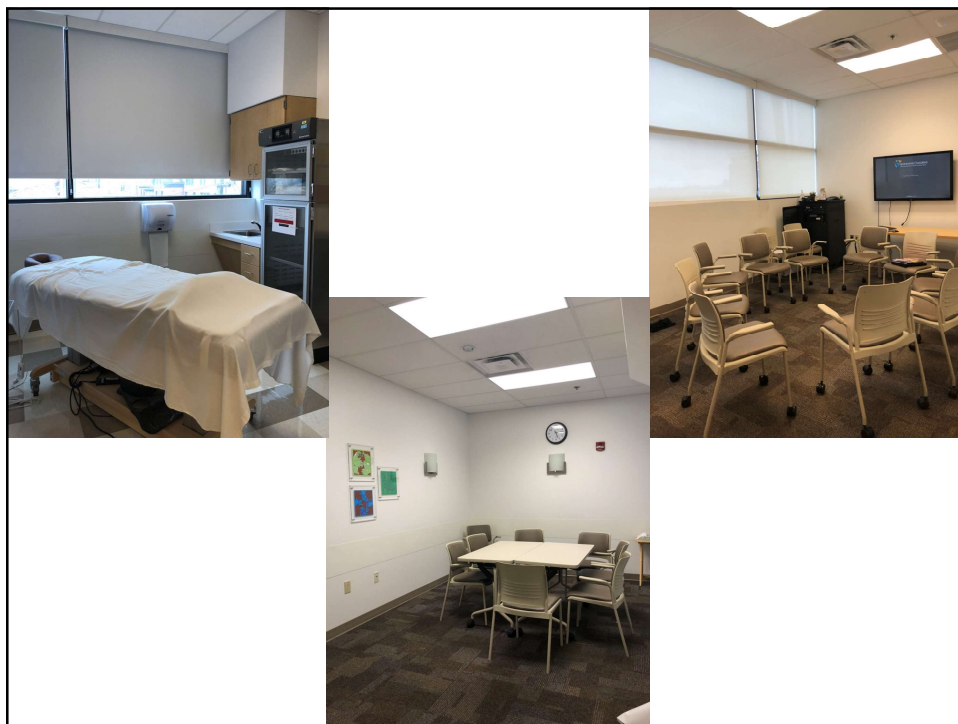
Questions or urgent concerns from  
physicians call the Physician Direct Connect  
Line and ask for Adolescent Medicine

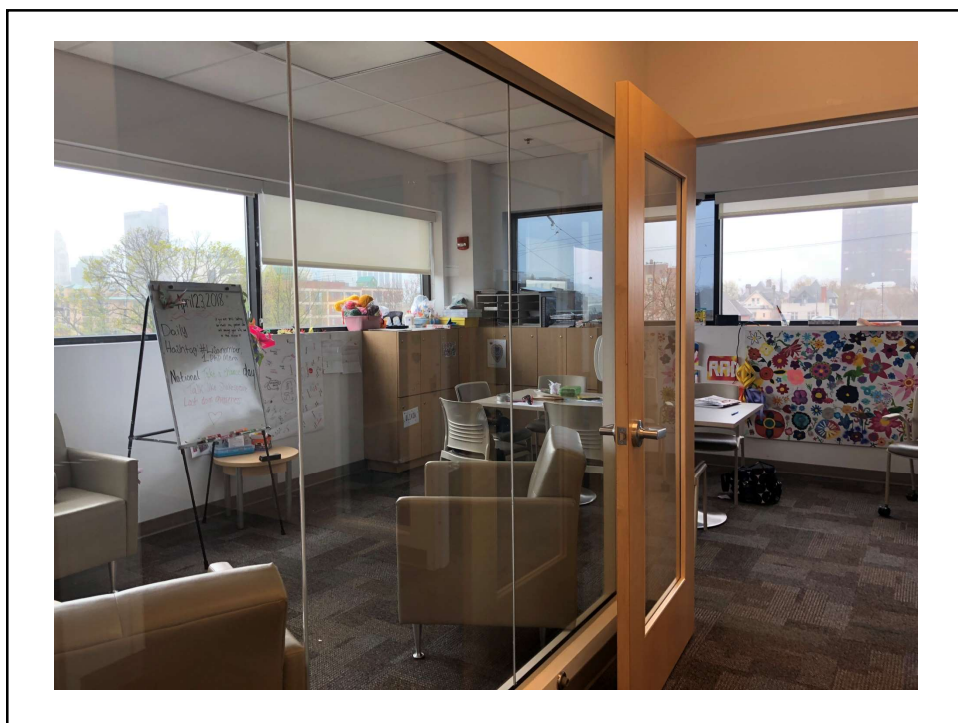
**(614) 355-0221**



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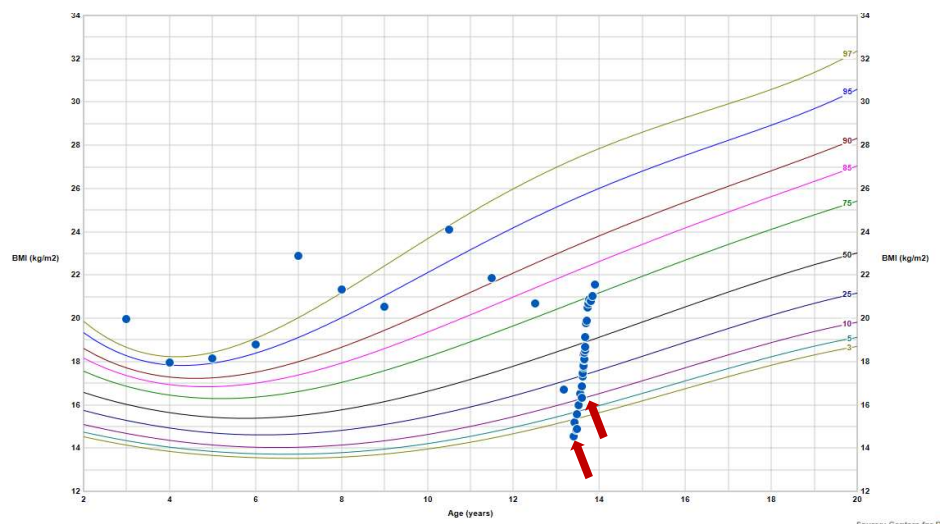




As promised.....

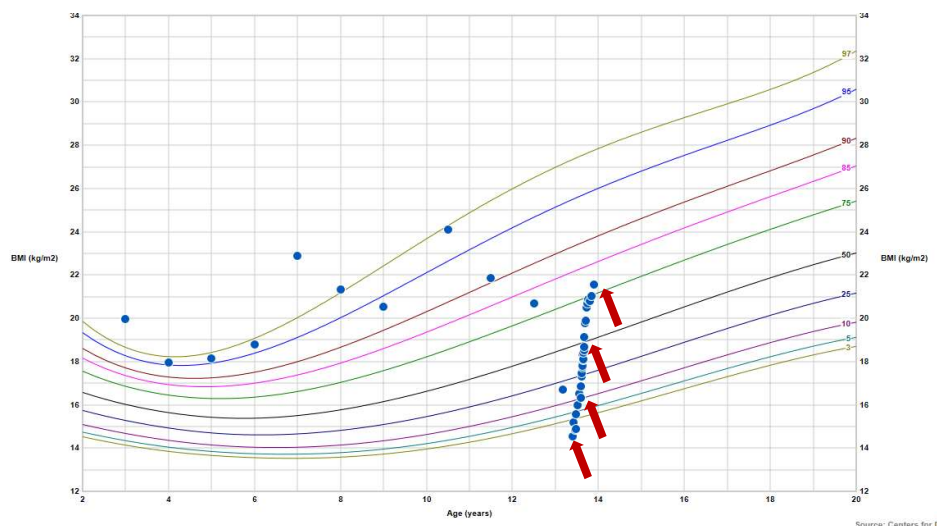
## The Secret in the Couch

# Matt





# Matt





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION.  
QUESTIONS?**

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