



The inpatient feeding program at Bethany Children's Health Center is offered for children who have struggled with feeding problems, and whose traditional outpatient therapy progress has stalled. Patients in the feeding program usually have a feeding tube, or are at risk for feeding tube placement. Patients in the program may have medical and/or developmental disorders including cerebral palsy, genetic disorders, oral motor dysfunction, or a history of prematurity.



bethany children's
HEALTH CENTER

anchored in hope

6800 NW 39th Expy Bethany, OK 73008
405.789.6711 | bethanychildrens.org

outpatient clinic

6800 NW 39th Expy Bethany, OK 73008

M-F: 8 am - 4:30 pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Direct: 405.440.9866
Fax: 405.438.3834

community pharmacy

6770 NW 39th Expy Bethany, OK 73008

M-F: 8:30 am - 5 pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

Direct: 405.440.6797
Fax: 405.440.6798



@bethanychildrens



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program overview

After a referral is received for the inpatient feeding program, each potential patient is assessed by our team at a clinic evaluation, where the child's medical records, outpatient therapy records, and feeding and diet history are reviewed with the caregiver. The team will determine a plan of care, individualized for each patient's unique needs and goals. Often children need to learn to increase the amount of food they eat by mouth, while other children need to increase the types of foods or textures they consume. Other goals may include decreasing the amount or frequency of tube feedings the child needs, or helping to overcome sensory aversions to food.

Each patient's length of stay is three weeks, during which the caregiver stays overnight with the patient to provide support, consistency, and to participate in therapy sessions. The caregiver staying with the patient will learn new techniques and interventions for feeding, and will be instrumental for providing continuity from our inpatient program back into the home environment. It is vital the caregiver who stays with the child be able to stay the entire admission, and will be the person who primarily feeds the child at home. During the admission, our team will evaluate the child's feeding habits, introduce new foods, techniques, and environmental supports, and train the caregiver on the utilization of the new interventions. At the time of discharge, our team will collaborate with the child's original outpatient therapy team to provide information and guidance on new strategies. Children who graduate from the inpatient feeding program will continue to work with their community outpatient therapists to make the transition from inpatient back to home as successful as possible.

our team

The inpatient feeding program is therapy-focused, with speech language pathologists and occupational therapists collaborating with other team members to determine individualized goals and plans for discharge. Additionally, our team includes physicians, advanced practice nurses, and consultants from other specialists, such as gastroenterology and psychology. Also involved, as needed:

- Case Managers and Social Workers
- Child Life Specialist
- Physical Therapists
- Recreation and Music Therapy
- Registered Dietitians
- Nurses and Respiratory Therapists

Each patient's education is important to us. Certified special education teachers place an emphasis on continuing the patient's education services in the community to assist with a smooth transition back to school. Candidates for the Inpatient Feeding Program typically meet the following criteria:

- Between 2 and 6 years of age, with a developmental age of at least 24 months
- Can safely swallow food
- Is medically stable and is able to participate in the therapy sessions
- Has received outpatient feeding therapy for 6 months, but would benefit from a short inpatient stay
- Has a caregiver who can stay, 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the entire 3 week admission

clinical referral team

If you have any questions, or would like to speak to a member of our referral team, please call 405.470.2247 or 405.550.6014.

