

# Endocrinology

## What Is Endocrinology?

Endocrinology is a branch of medicine that treats hormones and metabolism. A pediatric endocrinologist works with kids who have endocrine diseases or issues with growth.

## Conditions Endocrinology Treats

Endocrinology can help children who show signs of:

- **Cerebral palsy.**
- **Epilepsy.**
- Bone deformities.
- Chronic inflammation.
- Growth concerns or inconsistent growth patterns.
- Hormonal imbalance.
- **Juvenile arthritis.**
- **Osteogenesis imperfecta** and other causes of frequent fractures and bone fragility.
- **Prader-Willi syndrome.**

For kids who have a history of taking certain anticonvulsants and steroids, and children who have gone for long periods of time with little or no movement—endocrinology services might help.

## Tests and Treatments

For some children who have growth disorders, endocrine treatment might involve:

- Addressing vitamin and mineral deficiencies.
- Changing medicines.
- Improvements in diet and nutrition.
- Weight-bearing activities to strengthen bones and improve balance.

An endocrine doctor works with your child, performing endocrinology tests to determine what types of treatment are most appropriate.

If your child needs support beyond lifestyle changes and medicines, we might prescribe additional medicines to

reduce the amount of bone breakdown and improve other aspects of endocrine health.

To diagnose and monitor problems related to bone density, your child might benefit from dual-energy radiography absorptiometry [\(DXA\) scans](#).

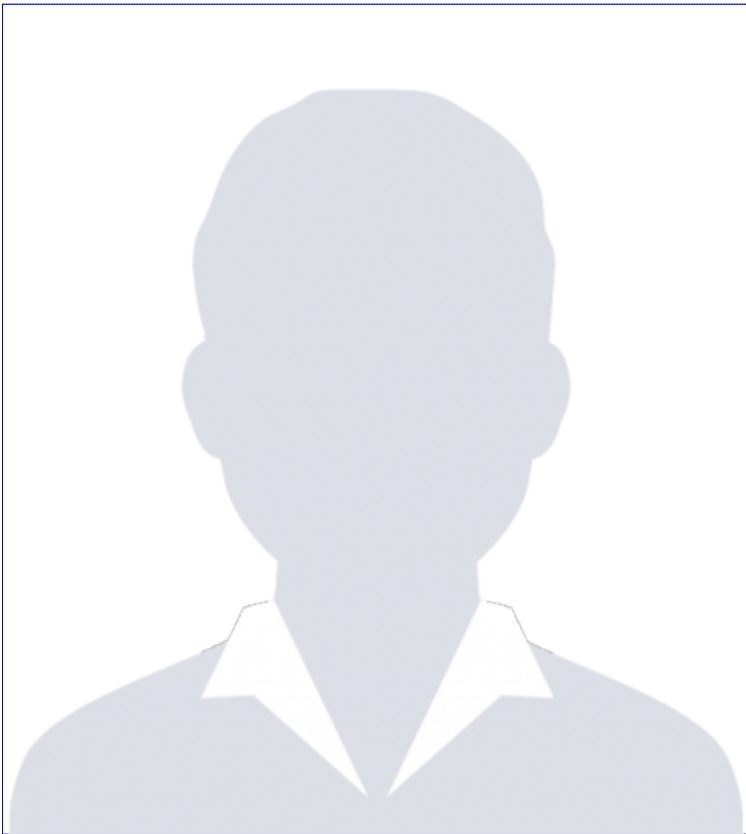
## Integrated Care

If your child has a complex condition they might need treatment for related hormonal and growth-related effects. Endocrinology programs at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare are designed to give your child their best chance at leading a typical, active life.

The Gillette endocrinology team understands the growth and hormonal needs of children who have disabilities and complex conditions. We also collaborate with providers in a variety of specialties to provide comprehensive care.

As part of their treatment or therapy, your child might also receive care from world-recognized specialists in:

- [Nutrition and feeding](#).
- [Radiology and imaging](#).



[Michael Ainslie, MD](#)

[Endocrinologist](#)



[Ann Schminski, MSN, APRN, CNP](#)

[Pediatric Nurse Practitioner](#)



[Kevin Sheridan, MD, CCD](#)

[Internal Medicine and Pediatric Physician](#)

### **Locations**

See all Gillette [hospital and clinic locations](#).



[St. Paul Campus](#)



## [Phalen Clinic](#)

[Make An Appointment](#) [651-290-8707](#) [Refer a Patient](#) [651-325-2200](#)

This information is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care providers. If you have any questions, talk with your doctor or others on your health care team.

If you are a Gillette patient with urgent questions or concerns, please contact Telehealth Nursing at [651-229-3890](#).