

# Partners **in** Care Journal

Continuing Dialogue Between Primary and Specialty Care

THIRD QUARTER 2017



**Gillette  
Children's**  
*Specialty Healthcare*

## FEATURED

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**A Patient-First Approach for  
Treating Epilepsy at Gillette**  
*By Timothy Feyma, MD*

**First Seizure Clinic at Gillette  
Offers Options for  
Referring Providers**  
*By Denise Leighty, PNP*

*Timothy Feyma, MD*



## "Every Child is Different": A Patient-First Approach for Treating Epilepsy at Gillette

By Timothy Feyma, MD

Treating epilepsy has to be customized to each child. One size never seems to fit all.

For approximately two-thirds of the children we see, we'll come to some kind of solution through medication to control seizures. In this quest, we hope to find that perfect balance of seizure control and freedom from medication side effects.

But for that last third of kids, we're going to find ourselves in a situation that presents few (if any) easy answers. We're often left trying to lessen seizure frequency while trying to minimize the undesired effects of medication.

Whether seizures are controlled or not, I find that with a lot of the kids I see, epilepsy is often just the tip of the iceberg. Many of my patients have underlying and comorbid neurological or psychological conditions.

At Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, we are uniquely equipped to treat this patient population, primarily because providing integrated, multidisciplinary specialty care is what we do every day.

We also work with kids every day, and if there's anything I think our staff does distinctly well it's that we treat the whole patient, not just the symptoms of their condition.

Many of the parents I encounter have become experts in their child's condition. We encourage our families to

advocate and be educated about a condition that confuses many. Education starts in the clinic and continues with guided access to reliable online resources. At Gillette, we work with families as well as with you, to treat our patients, keep them safe, and get them to a place where they can become the most functional adult possible.

Because our focus is pediatrics, our staff provides care around the margins that you might not see at other facilities. We know that when working with someone's child, many of the little things, like the fact that our EEG technicians are great with kids, really can make a difference in how your patients experience health care.

We all have the same goals, and we're all trying to make sure that the kids living in our communities get to the facility that will provide them with the most optimized level of care.

We're always happy to pick up the phone and discuss your patients. If you have questions about a patient, please don't hesitate to call.

Thank you,  
Tim Feyma, MD

**If you have questions about epilepsy treatment at Gillette, please call our dedicated One-Call Access phone number for providers: 651-325-2200 or 855-225-2200 (toll-free).**

## First Seizure Clinic at Gillette Offers Options for Referring Providers

By Denise Leighty, PNP



For obvious reasons, a first seizure event can be a traumatic thing for a family to experience. This can be especially true when experienced by an otherwise healthy child.

At Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, we serve many children in our region who have complex illnesses. The majority of our patients have underlying neurological conditions, so epilepsy is something we see a great deal of in clinic.

What may be less commonly known is that Gillette has a First Seizure Clinic devoted to treating otherwise healthy children who have recently experienced their first seizure. Monday through Friday, we have spots in our Neurology clinic designated specifically for seeing first seizure patients.

Because we are used to treating children who have complex conditions, treating the more straightforward cases of epilepsy is something we do quite well.

During their first visit, your patient will receive a comprehensive workup and exam. We'll conduct an EEG prior to their appointment, and make sure the family feels secure about their next steps going forward.

Much of our focus in that first visit is on education. We talk about what epilepsy is, what it isn't, and answer any of the questions our patients and families may have.

We know that following a first seizure event there is usually a fair amount of anxiety to manage. Because our practice is pediatrics, our entire staff is excellent at working with children and their families. It's our goal to help our patients navigate their path of treatment following a first seizure event.

If you have a patient who recently experienced a first seizure, give us a call. We're here as a resource for you and your patients.



*Gillette leadership and physicians gather with the Ash family to celebrate the hospital's designation as a Duchenne Care Center. From left: Steve Koop, MD, medical director; Paula Montgomery, general counsel; Barbara Joers, president and CEO; Marilyn and Tyler Ash; Randal Richardson, MD; Stephen Smith, MD; Lauryn Ash; Kit Brady, vice president of human resources, education and guest experience.*

## Gillette Named as **Certified Duchenne Care Center**

Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD) recently named Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare a Certified Duchenne Care Center. The designation, held by only 16 clinics in the U.S., recognizes knowledge and leadership in the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a degenerative neuromuscular condition that affects boys.

PPMD selected Gillette as Minnesota's Duchenne Care Center because of its comprehensive program that includes pediatrics, transitional care and adult care for individuals who have Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Randall Richardson, MD, currently leads the Neuromuscular Clinic.

"This serves not just as a wonderful recognition of the work that Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare neuromuscular team has done, but also offers us the opportunity for continuing performance enhancement," Richardson says. "We are great, but this relationship allows us the opportunity to be even better."

**If you have questions about the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy at Gillette, please call our dedicated One-Call Access phone number for providers: 651-325-2200 or 855-225-2200 (toll-free)**

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*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



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## EDUCATION AND EVENTS FOR PROVIDERS

### Partners in Care Webinar Series



**Thursday Oct. 12**  
12 – 1 p.m.

**Allison Schiffern, MD & Tiffany Gordon, RN**  
*Complex Care with Spina Bifida*



**Wednesday, Nov. 8**  
7 – 8 a.m.

**Tim Feyma, MD & Jen Maytum, DNP**  
*Epilepsy Awareness Month –  
Seizure Management*

### Medical Conferences

**Friday, Dec. 1**  
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Motor Delay in Children:  
Optimizing Care in the Context of Family and Community**  
Saint Paul RiverCentre

Visit the website to register  
[gillettechildrens.org/events](http://gillettechildrens.org/events)