



**PHOENIX
CHILDREN'S
Hospital**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

www.phoenixchildrens.com

Fact Sheet – Down syndrome

Phoenix Children's Hospital is pleased to announce Arizona's first Down syndrome Clinic. This one of a kind Clinic at Phoenix Children's Hospital will offer patients and their families coordinated care under one roof.

About Down syndrome

Down syndrome, the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition, is a genetic condition where a person has 47 chromosomes instead of the usual 46. In most cases, Down syndrome occurs when there is an extra copy of chromosome 21. This form of Down syndrome is called Trisomy 21. The extra chromosome causes problems with the way the body and brain develop.

Statistics

- There are three types of Down syndrome: standard trisomy 21 (nondisjunction) accounts for 95% of cases, translocation accounts for about 4% and mosaicism accounts for about 1%.
- One in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome.
- In Arizona, 161 babies a year are born with Down syndrome.
- There are more than 400,000 people living with Down syndrome in the United States.
- Life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades – from 25 in 1983 to 60 today.
- 80 percent of children born with Down syndrome are born to women under 35 years of age.

Facts

- Down syndrome occurs in people of all races and economic levels.
- Down syndrome is usually identified at birth, or shortly after. Initially, the diagnosis is based on physical characteristics that are commonly seen in babies with Down syndrome. However, the diagnosis must be confirmed by a chromosome study, karyotype.
- People with Down syndrome have an increased risk for certain medical conditions, such as congenital heart defects, respiratory and hearing problems, Alzheimer's disease, childhood leukemia and thyroid conditions.
- The incidence of Down syndrome increases with advancing maternal age.
- Children with Down syndrome experience cognitive delays, but the effect is usually mild to moderate.
- Children with Down syndrome are more like other children than they are different; they learn and grow. They simply achieve their goals at a different pace.

Facts about the Clinic

- The Clinic will supplement the routine medical care provided by the child's primary care physician.

- Coordinates and provides the many diagnostic and therapeutic services needed for children with Down syndrome.
- The majority of the Clinic team members are already employed by Phoenix Children's Hospital or provide services.
- Will provide services in an on-site clinic three times a month, half day clinics.
- Clinic specialties include: Developmental pediatrics, Genetics, PT, OT, Speech and a clinical coordinator.
- Some of the virtual team members will include: Cardiology, Hematology/Oncology, GI/Nutrition, Dental, Psychology, Ophthalmology, ENT, Surgery, Neurosurgery, Sleep Lab, Pulmonology, Immunology/Allergy, Neurology, Endocrinology and Psychiatry.

For a new patient appointment, please have your child's pediatrician fax us a referral for consultation at (602) 933-0068. We feel that it is very important that your child's pediatrician is involved in every step of your child's care!

Other Resources for parents:

DS Network	www.dsnetworkaz.org
Sharing Down Syndrome Arizona	www.sharingds.org
Raising Special Kids	www.raisingpecialkids.org
National Down Syndrome Society	www.ndss.org
Down syndrome Research and Treatment Foundation	www.dsrtf.org
March of Dimes	www.marchofdimes.com