

**CHILDREN'S MEDICAL GROUP  
CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND**

**(301) 724-7616**

| <b><u>Office Hours</u></b>     |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Monday through Thursday</b> | <b>9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.</b> |
| <b>Friday</b>                  | <b>9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.</b> |
| <b>Saturday</b>                | <b>9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon</b>   |

**OFFICE VISITS**

Office visits are designed to uncover any physical or emotional illness which your child may develop and to do what is possible to prevent these problems from occurring. The Children's Medical Group closely follows the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding frequency of office visits and immunization procedures and policies. Examinations are suggested at 1 week, then 1, 2, 4, 6, 9 and 12 months of age during the first year. Well visits are less frequent after that, at age 15 months and 18 months, then yearly after age 2 years. We are trained to care for a person from birth up to the early 20's, and we hope you will take advantage of this expertise.

Visits for chronically ill children are generally more frequent. We urge that you make and keep appointments for these children as your physician suggests.

Just as important as physical ailments are the behavioral problems and emotional issues that arise in situations of everyday living. It is important that these be discussed at each visit. Such issues are eating, sleeping, weaning, and toilet training problems in younger children. In older children and adolescents, there is a wide variety of emotional and behavioral issues to follow and discuss.

Our primary objective is to help you and your child with any health or related problem. It is important that you get in touch with us if any problems do develop with your child between the usual visits. We are here to help you.

**APPOINTMENTS and TELEPHONE CALLS**

Appointments for routine visits should be made as you leave the office after the current visit. Appointments for an acutely ill child should be made as soon as possible after 8:00 a.m. Time is saved throughout the day to see acutely ill children, but the earlier you call, the easier it is to get an appointment at a convenient time. Please specify that you want your child seen if that is the case. You may call for information only, as well.

## **OFFICE VISITS - Page 2**

A nurse or receptionist will answer the telephone when our office is open. (The answering service will take calls when the office is not open.)

One of the benefits of our extended hours is that you can be seen by a pediatrician who has access to your child's medical record, including past illnesses, drug reactions, etc. This helps provide continuity of care. However, a medical emergency may arise when our office is closed. In such cases, you will reach the answering service by dialing the phone number given to you on the recorded message at the office. Please reserve these calls for emergencies that cannot wait until morning office hours.

### **USE OF THE EMERGENCY ROOM**

Please call us in cases of severe illness or medical emergency. It is to your child's benefit to have us involved to either coordinate care or to directly provide the care in such circumstances. In many cases, we can give advice by telephone that will help avoid a visit to the emergency room. Sometimes we will need to see your child ourselves immediately (in the emergency room or in the office). Sometimes we will refer you to the emergency room to be seen by the E.R. physicians, and sometimes we can recommend therapy at home until the office opens the next day.