

INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL ASPECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF CHARGE SYNDROME:

What this section contains, and how to use it.

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The Medical section of the CHARGE Syndrome Management Manual is divided into multiple sub-sections according to areas of the body. We intend for these to be useful both from the point of view of the families and of the professionals who work with your children. Each sub-section is has two parts: a DOCTOR section and a PARENT section. **You may want to make copies of the DOCTOR pages for the specialists working with your child.** Also make copies of the **OVERVIEW** page (just past the Visit Pad info at the front of this section) to give to each specialist. **DO NOT GIVE OUT THE ORIGINALS - KEEP THOSE IN THE MANUAL**

DOCTOR section: Each section contains a short summary intended for physicians. As you may already know, most specialists do not want or need to know everything about CHARGE. They are interested in the features of CHARGE within their specialty and other features which may have an impact on how the child is treated. We have attempted to cover the range of severity of features found in CHARGE, how they may be different in CHARGE than in other children, and other factors which may need to be considered, including cautions about care for children with CHARGE. For example, it is important for the cardiologist to know about tracheomalacia and anesthesia risks before planning surgery. The DOCTOR sections are written in standard medical jargon and include medical references and contact information for the author. We have tried to include the medical terms in the **glossary**.

PARENT section: In each PARENT section, we have tried to start out by describing the normal structure and function of the area of the body covered. Then we list some of the most common problems or abnormalities often seen in CHARGE, how the problems may be diagnosed, what tests may be done, and some of the management issues. Combined effects of multiple problems may be discussed or you may be referred to another section for the discussion.

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