INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL ASPECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF
CHARGE SYNDROME:

What this section contains, and how to use it.

Meg Hefner, M.S.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Division of Medical Genetics, St. Louis University School of
Medicine, 1465 S. Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63104
Hefnerma@slu.edu  Meg@chargesyndrome.org  (314)768-8730

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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Authors’ names and contact information are on the top of each section (physician and parent).
All pages are dated, so you will have an idea if the information may be incomplete or outdated.
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