



Shriners Hospitals
for Children®

Shriners Hospitals for Children: Why They Are Important

There are 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children® in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The renowned hospital system provides excellent pediatric specialty care to children with orthopaedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries, and cleft lip and palate, regardless of the patients' ability to pay. Shriners Hospitals for Children has helped nearly 1 million children overcome exceedingly difficult challenges and achieve more than believed possible.



A History of Specialty Care

The first Shriners Hospitals for Children – opened in the 1920s – were established primarily to care for children who had contracted polio. Today, there are 20 Shriners Hospitals for Children providing care for children with all types of orthopaedic conditions, including clubfoot, hip disorders, limb deficiencies and deformities, scoliosis, and orthopaedic difficulties related to cerebral palsy and other neuromuscular conditions.

In the mid-1960s, Shriners became aware of a lack of medical expertise in pediatric burn care and opened three hospitals specializing in acute and rehabilitative burn care. These hospitals are the only ones initially established exclusively for the treatment of pediatric burns and related conditions. A fourth hospital in our health care system offering treatment for burns also provides care for orthopaedic conditions, spinal cord injury and cleft lip and palate. These hospitals continue to be pioneers in pediatric burn treatment and research and are recognized as leaders in the development of improved and innovative treatment techniques.

In the early 1980s, the Shriners fraternity opened the nation's first pediatric spinal cord injury rehabilitation centers. There, patients find the complete range of services needed to recover to the fullest extent possible.

Cleft lip and palate is the health care system's fourth service line. Facial clefts are one of the most common birth defects in the U.S. Despite the frequency of its occurrence, and the severity of the deformities, care for patients with cleft lip and palate can be difficult to obtain. Shriners Hospitals for Children is committed to improving care for children with this condition through a comprehensive, coordinated program of clinical excellence, teaching and research.

Being Eligible for Care

Admission to our hospitals is based solely on medical need. All children, under the age of 18, are eligible for care if there is a reasonable possibility they could benefit from the specialized services available. All services are provided regardless of the ability to pay.

Sharing Knowledge and Expertise

Shriners Hospitals for Children is dedicated to conducting innovative research to provide answers to complex medical difficulties affecting children. The organization's research efforts not only benefit our patients, they contribute to the overall body of medical knowledge.

The health care system is also proud of its role in medical education. In the past 20 years, approximately 9,500 physicians have received residency education or postgraduate fellowships at our hospitals.

Continuing the Mission

At 22 locations throughout North America, our patients receive expert care that allows them to become as healthy and independent as possible, and live happy, fulfilled lives. The health care system depends on the generosity of donors to carry out this mission of improving the lives of children. To learn how you can help, visit www.donate2shc.org or call **800-241-GIFT**.

2011 Patient Care Statistics

In 2011, Shriners Hospitals for Children cared for 121,713 patients, including 30,402 new patients, and provided many services, including the following:

- 285,154 outpatient, outreach and telemedicine clinic visits
 - 10,109 prosthetic patient visits (inpatient and outpatient)
 - 51,288 orthotics patient visits (inpatient and outpatient)
 - 210,624 radiology services
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