

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **KIDWELL RESOURCES:**
  - Highmark Commercial Reports
  - Asthma Lunch & Learn Replay Available
  - Flu Corner: Flu Report
  - Surgery Corner: Nasolacrimal Duct Obstruction in Children
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS/HIGHLIGHTS**
- Welcome- Chris Morris
- Spring Practice Visits - April
- Meeting Reminders
  - Q-Connect Meeting
  - Lunchtime Lecture
- **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**
  - Immunization Coalition -At a Glance



## Board of Managers

### CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Jay Ludwicki- Chair - The Pediatric and Adolescent Center  
Anthony Gannon- Nemours Children's Endocrine  
Jonathan Miller- Nemours Children's PC  
Nancy Gideon/Erin Fletcher- Beacon Pediatrics  
Pamela Huffman-DeVaughn- PAMCOP  
Charizza Sales- Kent Pediatrics  
Vibha Sanwal - Primary Care, Rainbow Pediatrics  
Karla Nicholas Swatski- Bryn Mawr Pediatrics



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 023

January 2026/Vol. 023

## KidWell Resources:

### New Reports: Data & Analytics Team

#### Highmark Commercial Quality Reports Now Available

New **Highmark Commercial quality reports** have been posted to the KidWell SFTP: <https://fts.nemours.org/>

#### What's included:

-  Highmark Folder: Raw payer files as received
-  Downloads Folder: Quality data formatted in the standard KidWell report layout

#### Data coverage:

- Payer claims through 12/27/2025
- Internal data through 1/27/2026

 Since the 2025 measurement period has ended, these reports are **informational only** and may be used to support **CQF submissions**.

#### What's next:

We anticipate receiving **2026 measurement year data in February** and will share updates once available.

#### Friendly reminder:

CQF is accepting submissions via **Availity through March 1, 2026**.

#### *Need assistance accessing your reports?*

*Contact: Mark Wanner, [mark.wanner@nemours.org](mailto:mark.wanner@nemours.org)*



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 023

January 2026/Vol. 023

## KidWell Resources:

### **Now Available On-Demand: NCHDE CIN Lunch & Learn – Chronic Asthma Clinical Pathway & SMART Therapy**

As promised – the replay is here!

The full **Online NCHDE CIN Lunch and Learn: Chronic Asthma Clinical Pathway and SMART Therapy** session from **September 23, 2025**, is now available as an online accredited continuing education course through Nemours Children’s Health.

Now’s the time to **claim your CE credit** – simply click the link below to access the course and complete the requirements.

#### **Access the course here:**

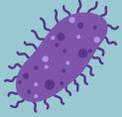
<https://ce.nemours.org/content/online-nchde-cin-lunch-and-learn-chronic-asthma-clinical-pathway-and-smart-therapy#group-tabs-node-course-default4>



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 023

January 2026/Vol. 023



## Vax Vibes Central: Get Ready to Rumble (with the Flu!)

Flu activity continues to evolve across the KidWell Network, and the latest **KidWell Community Flu Report** is now available, highlighting vaccination progress and seasonal flu trends across our community practices.

### KidWell Community Flu Report Out

Patients ages 6 months–18 years who received at least one flu vaccine dose this season through January 7, 2026 – see below.

 **THIS IS GREAT WORK!**

### KidWell Community Flu Report – Visual Trends



If you would like updated detail on patients who are eligible but did not yet receive the vaccination, or on how your practice individually is doing, please reach out to your quality Improvement Specialist: Nicole Schwegler, [Nicole.Schwegler@nemours.org](mailto:Nicole.Schwegler@nemours.org)

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 023

January 2026/Vol. 023



## Vax Vibes Central: Get Ready to Rumble (with the Flu!)



### Practice Tools & Workflow Strategies

#### High-Impact Flu Vaccination Workflow

- ✓ Ask about flu vaccination status at every visit
- ✓ Offer the flu vaccine consistently — regardless of visit type
- ✓ Document clearly in the EMR
- ✓ Follow up with families who decline or defer

*Consistency across the care team drives higher uptake.*

#### Workflow-Friendly Messaging

##### Presumptive Language

“We’ll include the flu vaccine today unless you have questions.”

##### Normalizing Statements

“Most families are choosing to protect their child with the flu shot.”

##### Timing Prompts

“Since you’re already here today, we can take care of it now.”

#### What This Means for Practices

- ◆ Vaccination efforts across the network are showing strong results — keep it up!
- ◆ Flu activity is increasing seasonally, making ongoing vaccination critical.
- ◆ Small workflow adjustments can significantly improve uptake.
- ◆ Targeted outreach can help close remaining gaps for eligible patients.

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 023

January 2026/Vol. 023



**Vax Vibes Central: Get Ready to Rumble (with the Flu!)**



 **Practice Tools & Workflow Strategies (cont'd)**

 **Flu Fighter Staff Spotlight**

Caught a staff member promoting flu vaccination?  
Nominate them for **this month's Flu Fighter Spotlight!**

 Send nominations to: [Nicole.Schwegler@nemours.org](mailto:Nicole.Schwegler@nemours.org)

 **Educational Resources & Support**

 **AAP Vaccine Confidence Resource**

Tools to support conversations with vaccine-hesitant families  
([Click here](#))

 **CHE Flu Education Sessions**

Bring the Community Health Education Team to your practice for short, targeted in-person sessions.

 Request here:

<https://redcap.nemoursresearch.org/redcap/surveys/?s=NF4DNXMLFTYDLKKX>

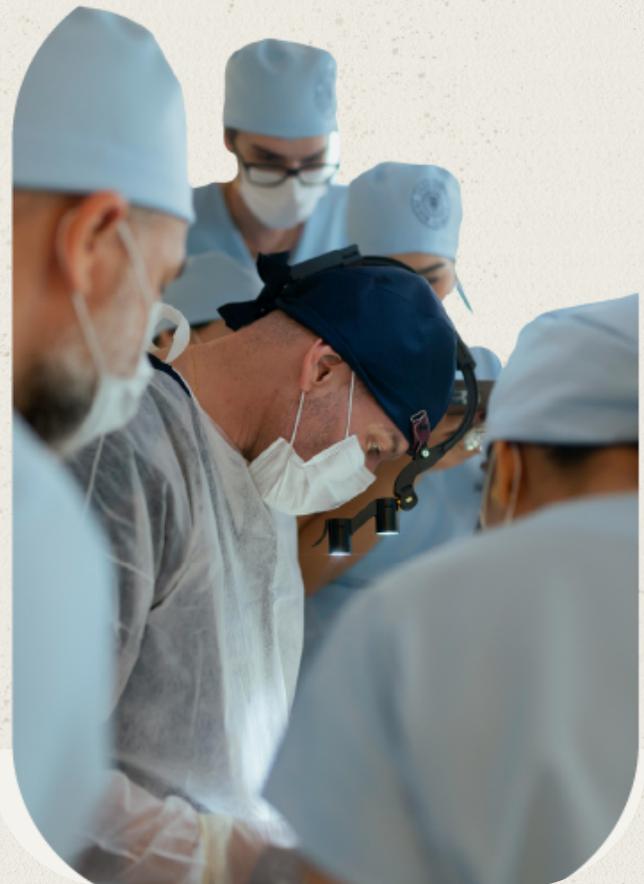
# CUTTING EDGE

**Keeping Practices Sharp With the Latest In Surgery**

## **Nasolacrimal Duct Obstruction in Children: A Quick Guide for Pediatricians**

**Presented by: Dr. Pimpiroon Ploysangam**

Nasolacrimal duct obstruction (NLDO) is a common condition affecting more than 5% of infants and is a frequent cause of chronic tearing and eye discharge in early life. While most cases resolve spontaneously within the first year, timely recognition and appropriate management are essential to prevent complications such as infection or lacrimal sac swelling. This quick clinical guide highlights key symptoms, causes, and treatment pathways to support pediatric providers in early identification, reassurance, and referral when needed.



**Questions or Referrals?**

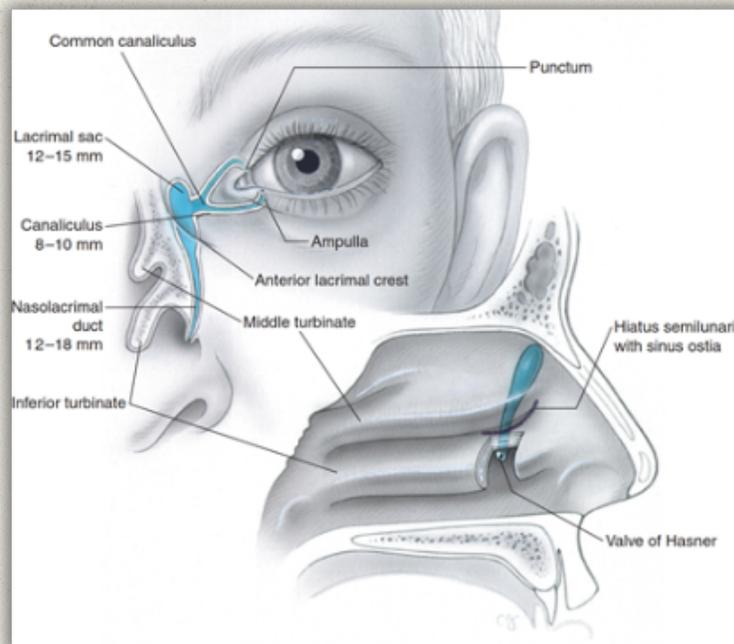
**Email: [surgerydepartment@nemours.org](mailto:surgerydepartment@nemours.org)**

## What Is It?

- A **nasolacrimal duct obstruction (NLDO)** prevents normal tear drainage from the eye into the nose
- Tears build up and overflow onto the eyelids and cheeks
- Often presents within the first month of life

## Anatomy Refresher

- Tears drain via puncta → canaliculi → nasolacrimal duct → nose
- Obstruction typically occurs at the valve of Hasner (distal end of duct)



## Epidemiology

- Affects >5% of infants
- ~90% resolve spontaneously by 12 months

## Common Causes

- Persistent membrane at valve of Hasner (most common)
- Absent puncta
- Narrow tear duct system
- Incomplete tear duct development that does not connect to the nose
- Infection

## Symptoms

- Chronic tearing (epiphora)
- Mucopurulent discharge
- Red, irritated eyelids; lashes may stick together
- Intermittent worsening with colds or nasal congestion

## Complications

- Dacryocystitis: Red, swollen lacrimal sac with fever/discharge – **urgent** treatment needed
- Dacryocystocele: Bluish swelling of lacrimal sac in newborns; may require early surgery with ENT evaluation due to risk of nasal obstruction

## Diagnosis

- Clinical history of early-onset tearing/discharge
- Office testing by ophthalmology can confirm diagnosis
- Rule out other causes (e.g., pediatric glaucoma – typically present with buphthalmos, epiphora, photophobia)

## Treatment

- **Observation:** Most cases resolve by 10 months
- **Crigler Massage:** Firm downward pressure over lacrimal sac to help open membrane
- **Topical antibiotics:** For acute infection/discharge only – these do not treat the obstruction itself
- **Surgical Options** (if persistent beyond 10 months):
  - **Probing:** First-line intervention, high success rate
  - **Balloon dilation and/or stenting:** For refractory cases
  - **DCR (Dacryocystorhinostomy):** Reserved for complex/recurrent cases

*The above information was adapted from the American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (AAPOS) and American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO).*



**Questions or Referrals?**

**Email: [surgerydepartment@nemours.org](mailto:surgerydepartment@nemours.org)**

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 023

January 2026/Vol. 023

## KidWell Announcements:

# WELCOME TO KIDWELL



Chris Morris

**AVP Payer Relations, International  
Medicine and Clinically Integrated  
Network**

Chris is responsible for leading the strategic, contractual, and operational relationships between Nemours and the MCOs as well as the development and management of Kidwell. In addition to leading the Managed Care strategy, he will also be responsible for the growth and success of value-based models within the CIN, collaborating with clinical and operational teams to improve patient access, quality outcomes, and cost efficiency. He has over thirty years of experience in the health insurance and managed care industry.

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 023

January 2026/Vol. 023

## KidWell Announcements:



### **KidWell Spring Practice Visits Are Coming in April!**

The KidWell team is gearing up for **Spring site visits** to our community practices throughout the month of **April** – and we're excited to connect with you in person!

These face-to-face visits are designed to support continued momentum and collaboration across the KidWell Network. During each visit, we'll focus on:

- ✓ Reviewing projected contract performance
- ✓ Sharing additional KidWell resources and supports
- ✓ Confirming and updating provider directory information
- ✓ Identifying opportunities for improvement
- ✓ Discussing next steps to keep progress moving forward

We already have several visits scheduled – so **be on the lookout for our call** as we continue coordinating with practices.

 Come ready with your questions, ideas, and opportunities for brainstorming and collaboration!

We're looking forward to connecting, learning from one another, and continuing to strengthen our partnerships across the KidWell community.

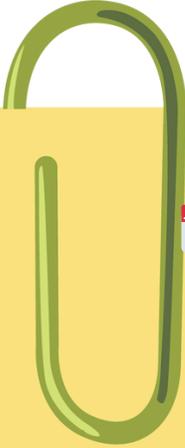


# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 023

January 2026/Vol. 023

## KidWell Announcements:



### Upcoming KidWell Meetings

#### ● **Q-Connect**

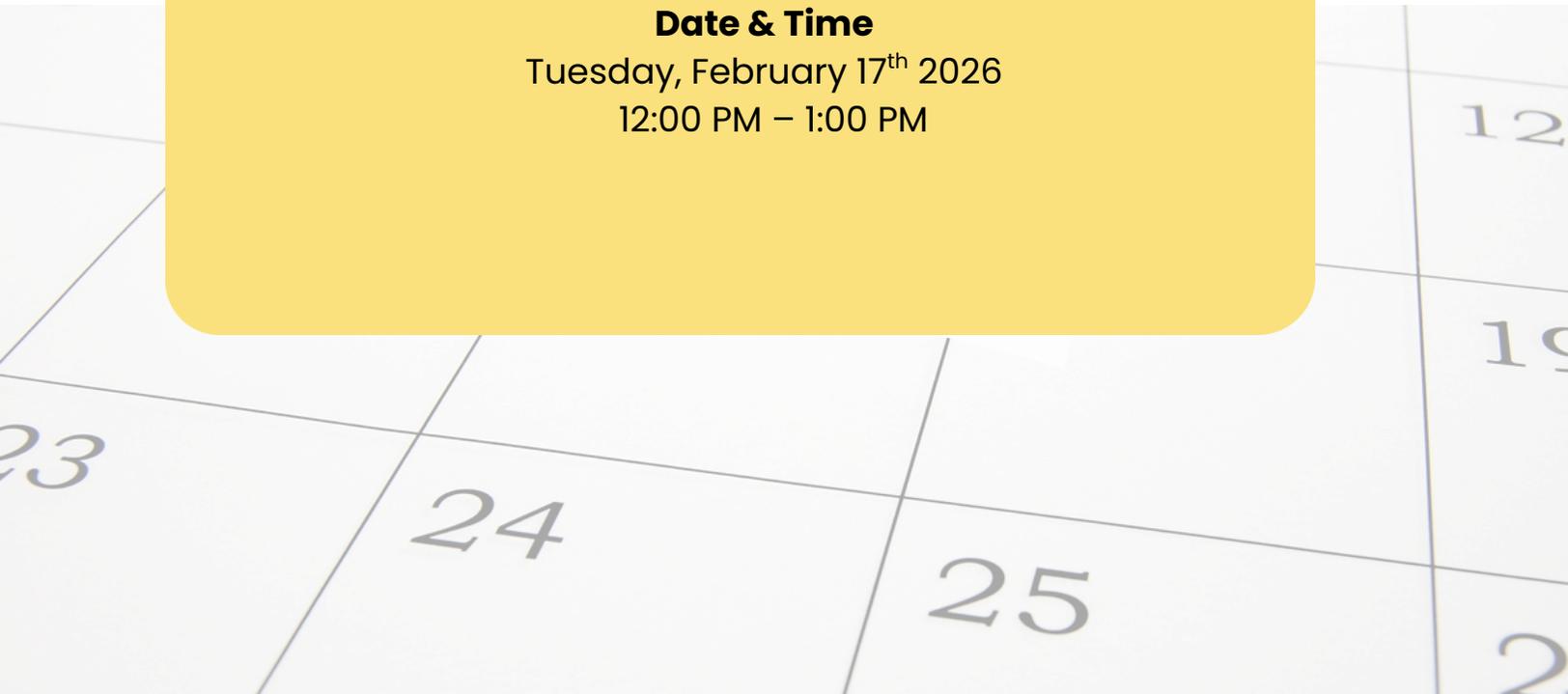
##### **Date & Time**

Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 2026  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

#### ● **KidWell LLS (Lunchtime Lecture Series)**

##### **Date & Time**

Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2026  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 023

January 2026/Vol. 023

## KidWell Meeting Details

# SPOTLIGHT FEATURE



### Q-CONNECT

Join us on Wednesday, February 4th, 2025, 12 PM- 1 PM 

Join us for the next KidWell Q-Connect Meeting, where KidWell teams and community partners come together to share updates, address practice challenges, and collaborate on solutions that improve care across the network.

#### **What to Expect**

#### **Announcements & Kudos**

Celebrating recent successes across the KidWell community.

#### **Team Updates**

Quick updates from Pharmacy, Care Management, Care Coordination, Community Health Education, Risk Management & Coding, and Quality & Practice Transformation.

#### **Data Highlights**

Key trends and initiatives supporting improved outcomes in asthma care, care management, and population health.

#### **Practice Feedback in Action**

See how KidWell is responding to practice concerns — including improved workflows for same-day imaging at Milford Specialty.

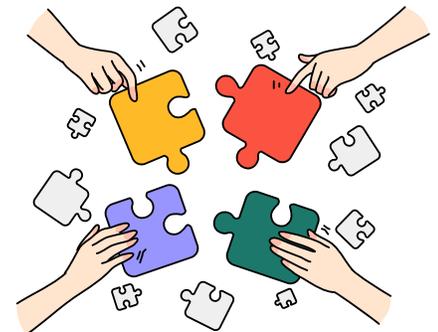
#### **Next Steps**

Clear takeaways and upcoming priorities.

#### **Why Attend?**

- ✓ Stay informed on KidWell initiatives
- ✓ Learn practical workflow improvements
- ✓ Connect with peers and KidWell teams
- ✓ Support better patient care

 Join us to collaborate, learn, and stay connected through Q-Connect!



#### **Meeting Link:**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 023

January 2026/Vol. 023

## KidWell Meeting Details

# SPOTLIGHT FEATURE



## Lunchtime Lecture Series

*Join us on Wednesday, February 17th, 2025, 12 PM- 1 PM* 

Join us for an upcoming **KidWell Lunchtime Lecture Series** session featuring a focused discussion on **Hip Dysplasia in Pediatric Care**—an important topic impacting early diagnosis, treatment, and long-term outcomes for children.

### **Featured Guest Speaker:** **Mihir M. Thacker, MD**

Board-Certified Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon & Division Chief of Limb Reconstruction

Dr. Thacker will share his expertise in pediatric orthopedic care, drawing from his extensive training and leadership in limb reconstruction and pediatric orthopedics. His passion for education and global experience bring a unique and practical perspective to caring for children and families.

### **Discussion Topics**

New Guidelines for diagnosis and management of Hip Dysplasia

### **Who Should Attend**

Providers, practice leaders, care coordinators, and partners interested in expanding their knowledge of pediatric orthopedic conditions and best practices in early intervention.

 **Join us using the Zoom link listed below** and be sure to check back for upcoming discussion topics.

### **Meeting Link:**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)





## Additional Resources:

### Immunization Coalition of Delaware – At a Glance

#### Week in Review – January 26, 2026

Stay informed with the latest updates from federal agencies and public health partners to support immunization efforts and infectious disease awareness across the KidWell Network.

#### Respiratory Virus Season Updates (CDC)

- Influenza activity remains elevated, though trending downward for the third consecutive week
- RSV activity continues to be elevated
- COVID-19 activity remains elevated in some regions
- Delaware respiratory illness levels are currently moderate
- Pediatric flu-related deaths this season: 32

#### National Influenza Burden (2025–2026 Season)

- 19–34 million illnesses
- 8.8–15 million medical visits
- 250,000–520,000 hospitalizations
- 10,000–54,000 deaths

#### Measles Outbreak Monitoring

- 416 confirmed cases reported nationwide across 14 states
- Most cases linked to outbreak-associated spread
- Children and adolescents represent the majority of cases
- Continued emphasis on vaccination as the primary prevention tool

#### Federal Updates & Public Health News

- Upcoming influenza advisory meetings scheduled for late February
- No major FDA vaccine announcements this week
- Ongoing national and global infectious disease monitoring

#### Learn More:

Practices seeking additional surveillance data, immunization resources, and outbreak updates can visit the Immunization Coalition of Delaware at <https://www.immunizedelaware.org/>



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

---

## Nominate a Stellar Colleague!

Do you know a coworker who consistently goes above and beyond? We want to celebrate their dedication in our Kudos Corner!

## Shape the Newsletter!

We're always looking for ways to improve the departmental newsletter. Do you have ideas for future content, suggestions for topics, or feedback on the format? We value your input!

Share your thoughts and suggestions with Asya Richardson directly at [asya.richardson@nemours.org](mailto:asya.richardson@nemours.org).



We value your feedback and participation! **Contact Us:**

**Dr. Maria Petrini:** [Maria.Petrini@nemours.org](mailto:Maria.Petrini@nemours.org) - 302-559-7716

**David Cruz:** [David.Cruz@nemours.org](mailto:David.Cruz@nemours.org) - 302-304-1351

**Asya Richardson:** [Asya.Richardson@nemours.org](mailto:Asya.Richardson@nemours.org) - 302-393-1886

**Nicole Schwegler:** [Nicole.Schwegler@nemours.org](mailto:Nicole.Schwegler@nemours.org) - 302-573-0202

See you next month,

The KidWell Network Team

