

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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Board of Managers

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Jay Ludwicki- Chair - The Pediatric and Adolescent Center
Magdy Attia - Vice Chair- Nemours Children's ER
Hal Byck- Nemours Children's Primary Care
Anthony Gannon- Nemours Children's Endocrine
Jonathan Miller- Nemours Children's PC
Ashish Gupta- Nemours Children's Neonatology
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



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KidWell Resources:

Highmark Commercial Quality Report Update

New Highmark Commercial quality reports are now available on the **SFTP (<https://fts.nemours.org/>)**

- Highmark folder: Raw payer files
- Downloads folder: Quality data in the KidWell format
- Claims through: 10/25/2025
- Internal data through: 11/25/2025

Key Measure to Prioritize Well-Child Visits, Ages 3–21 Years

BMI Data Notice

Highmark’s official True Performance report **still does** not include **BMI**.
To support CQF planning, this report includes BMI estimates (for guidance only).
2024 targets are used until official 2025 targets are released.

Measures expected in 2025 contract	Measures present in current quality report
Adolescent Immunization Combo 2	Immunizations for Adolescents: Combination 2
All-Cause Readmissions	All-Cause Readmissions: All Products (all ages)
Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits	Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits
Childhood Immunization Status; Combination 7	Childhood Immunization Status: Combination 7
Lead Screening in Children	Lead Screening in Children
WCC: BMI	
WCC: Counseling for Nutrition	Weight Assessment & Counseling Children/Adolescents: Nutrition Counseling
WCC: Counseling for Physical Activity	Weight Assessment & Counseling Children/Adolescents: Physical Act. Counseling
Well-Child Visits in the First 30-Months of Life (0-15 Months)	Well-Child Visits in the First 15 Months. Six or more visits
Well-Child Visits in the First 30-Months of Life (15-30 Months)	Well-Child Visits Age 15 Months - 30 Months. Two or more visits
	Childhood Immunization Status: Combination 10
	Screening for Depression

 No CQF submission is needed for Combo 10 or Depression Screening.

CQF Reminder

Submissions via **Availity** are accepted through **March 1, 2026**.
(Guide included in this month’s attachments.)

Questions?

Mark Wanner, Manager, VBSO Business Support  mark.wanner@nemours.org

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Resource: CHE Education

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

The Community Health Education (CHE) Team is here to support your patients and families with engaging, interactive programs that make a difference.



Asthma Management

Children ages 8-11 | 40 minutes

Our educators are certified facilitators for the Open Airways for Schools* (OAS) program through the American Lung Association. Over six sessions, this program educates and empowers kids on how to detect the warning signs of asthma, avoid their triggers, and make decisions about their health.



Healthy Living Series

All ages | 1 hour

Separated into three related sessions, our educators will discuss age-appropriate information on nutrition, healthy eating habits, and physical activity. This curriculum can be condensed into one longer session if needed.



Mental Health

All ages | Varies

Based on extensive Nemours research, our educators have developed several curricula surrounding mental health for a variety of age groups. We offer stress management, coping with big emotions, depression in teenagers, suicide awareness, and resources for parents as well.



Seasonal Sickness

Parents and Children | 30 minutes

Keeping our kids safe during cold and flu season is always a top priority. We discuss the differences between cold, flu, and COVID-19 symptoms, who needs seasonal vaccines and why, when to call the doctor, and how to keep yourself safe during cold and flu season.



Healthy Relationships & STD Prevention

Teenagers | 1 hour

Two separate sessions with overlapping themes that can be used in conjunction or alone. Geared towards adolescents, the Healthy Relationships curriculum focuses on healthy communication, consent, peer pressure, the signs of a healthy vs unhealthy relationship, and toxic friendships. Our STD Prevention is evidence-based and covers prevention topics such as STD testing, healthy communication and decision making, and basic safer sex practices.

✉ To request a session for your practice, please Click link below
redcap.nemoursresearch.org/redcap/surveys/?s=NF4DNXMLFTYDLKXX

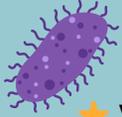


Request a CHE Session
Today!

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



★ Your monthly snapshot of flu activity, vaccine trends & high-impact practice tools

Flu Activity Snapshot

Delaware (Weeks 40–46)

- **112** total flu cases
- **26** new cases this week
- **0** hospitalizations
- **185,974** flu vaccine doses administered
- **18.5%** statewide flu vaccination rate

 Opportunity Zone: Southern DE ZIP codes with **lower vaccination uptake**

Pennsylvania Respiratory Update

- **Flu A (H1N1)** continues to rise statewide
- **RSV cases increasing faster than flu** in Southeast PA
- Early increases reinforce need for **in-visit flu recommendations** and **follow-up workflows**

Practice Tools & Resources

Quick Workflow Guide: “Where Flu Fits into Today’s Visit”

- **Check-In:** Ask flu status → Document
- **Rooming:** Re-offer vaccine → Address hesitations
- **Provider:** Strong recommendation → Reinforce
- **Checkout:** If declined, set follow-up or reminder

Strong Provider Recommendation Toolkit

Top phrases proven to boost acceptance:

- “I strongly recommend the flu vaccine today.”
- “This protects your child all season long.”
- “We’re offering it to all our patients today.”

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

Practice Tools & Resources (cont'd)

Handling Common Parent Hesitations

Q: “Can the flu shot give my child the flu?”

A: “No, it can’t cause infection.”

Q: “We want to wait.”

A: “Flu is already circulating – today gives the best protection.”

Q: “My child never gets sick.”

A: “Healthy kids often spread flu fastest – vaccination protects the whole family.”

Flu Fighter Staff Spotlight

Caught a staff member promoting flu vaccination?

Nominate them for **December’s Flu Fighter Spotlight!**

 Send nominations to: Nicole.Schwegler@nemours.org.

Educational Resources & Support

AAP Vaccine Confidence Resource

Talking with Vaccine-Hesitant Parents
([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>

Upcoming Webinar

Rural Vaccination in 2025: Strategies, Challenges, and Successes

 Dec 4, 2025 – 2 PM EST

CUTTING EDGE

KEEPING PRACTICES SHARP WITH THE LATEST IN SURGERY

Troubleshooting G-Tube Problems in Pediatric Patients

*Contributors: Kelly Pruden, APRN
& Molly Haislip, APRN*

Gastrostomy (G-tube) placement is common in children who need long-term access for feeding, hydration, or medication. Most G-tube issues are minor and can be resolved with early recognition and simple troubleshooting — often avoiding unnecessary Emergency Room visits.



Questions or referrals?

Email: surgerydepartment@nemours.org

PLEASE READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE ON THE NEXT PAGE

surgerydepartment@nemours.org

Troubleshooting G-Tube Problems in Pediatric Patients

💧 1. Leakage Around the Tube

Assessment

- Check balloon volume (minimum 3–5 mL water for 12 Fr Mic-Key, 5 mL for 14 Fr Mic-Key).
- Inspect for granulation tissue, constipation, or abdominal distension.
- Evaluate for signs of systemic or respiratory illness.

Management

- Add water to balloon if underinflated.
- Treat granulation tissue with Kenalog cream or silver nitrate.
- Address constipation or aerophagia; vent as needed.
- Leaking may occur early in viral illnesses—use absorbent dressing or barrier ointment to protect skin.
- Erythema with large leakage volume is expected; treat for cellulitis only if fever, induration, or foul-smelling drainage are present.

🌸 2. Granulation Tissue

Assessment

Friable red or flesh-colored tissue at the stoma edge that may bleed or leak.

Management

- Apply triamcinolone 0.1% cream/ointment BID x 1–2 weeks.
- Perform chemical cautery with silver nitrate sticks (protect surrounding skin).
- Use barrier protection (e.g., Mepilex lite or barrier cream).
- Remove g-tube extension when not in use.

Troubleshooting G-Tube Problems in Pediatric Patients

🚫 3. G-Tube Blockage

Assessment

Tube will not flush.

Management

- Remove and replace the extension set; flush with warm water.
- Try room-temperature cola, gently pulsing through the tube.
- If unresolved and first g-tube change has occurred, change the g-tube.
- **Prevention:**
 - Give meds separately and flush with water between doses.
 - Avoid mixing meds with formula.
 - Use liquid, finely crushed, or well-diluted medications.
 - Always flush tube with water after feeds or meds.

⚠️ 4. Tube Dislodgement

Assessment

Confirm when g-tube was placed and if the first change has occurred.
(Nemours providers: check EPIC "Problem List" for attention to g-tube or gastrostomy tube in place.)

Management

- First g-tube change: Must be done by surgery team 6–8 weeks post-op (some at 4 weeks).
 - If not yet completed, call the surgery team.
 - Mon–Fri (8a–5p): Patient can be seen in surgery clinic.
 - After hours/weekends: Patient should be seen in the Emergency Room.
- **After first change:**
 - Replace if comfortable; confirm placement by aspirating gastric contents.
 - If unable to aspirate, drain to gravity, reposition, then retry.
 - If still unsuccessful, **order X-ray Abdomen 2 View for G-Tube Placement (IMG0246)**.
 - Call **Radiology (302.-651-4664)** to schedule urgent study.
 - **Do not use the g-tube until placement is confirmed.**

Troubleshooting G-Tube Problems in Pediatric Patients

📞 Surgery Team Contact Information

- **Mon–Fri** (8 a.m.–5 p.m.): 302.651.5888
- **After hours/weekends:** 302.651.4000
- → Ask operator to contact the **surgery team on call**

🙋 Timely recognition, systematic evaluation, and simple interventions can prevent complications and unnecessary ED visits. Keep this reference handy for quick decision-making in practice.

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KidWell Announcements:

Welcome South Philadelphia Pediatrics — Our Newest KidWell Practice

We're excited to announce that **South Philadelphia Pediatrics** has officially joined the KidWell Network, expanding our reach and strengthening access to high-quality, community-centered pediatric care across Philadelphia.

With locations in South Philadelphia, Queen Village, and Whitman, this outstanding practice brings a dynamic team of physicians, nurse practitioners, and care providers who share our commitment to delivering compassionate, evidence-based care to children and families.

A Warm KidWell Welcome

Please join us in welcoming South Philadelphia Pediatrics to the KidWell Network —we look forward to achieving meaningful outcomes together.

Meet the Team



Jodi Kefer, MD



Sara Busis, MD



Roshni Sneth, MD



Robert Parker, MD



Elizabeth
Bowman, CRNP



Michelle
Prettyman, MD



Melina
Harmelin, MD



Katie Pearson, PNP

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KidWell Announcements:

December Practice Visits Are Underway

The KidWell Network team will be visiting all practices throughout the month of December. These onsite sessions 🏢📍 are an opportunity to close out the year with meaningful reflection, data-driven planning 📊, and hands-on support as we prepare for 2026.

What We're Bringing to Each Visit

- ✓ Year-end data reports 📈
- ✓ Updated resources & tools 📁
- ✓ Practice-specific insights 🔍
- ✓ Opportunities for real-time collaboration 🤝

💬 Open Discussion

We'll reserve time to talk through your practice's needs, challenges, ideas, and priorities as we move into the new year.

We look forward to seeing each of you in December and partnering together for a strong start to 2026!

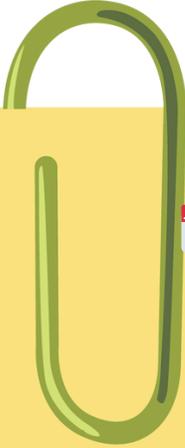


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KidWell Announcements:



Upcoming KidWell Meetings

● **Q-Connect**

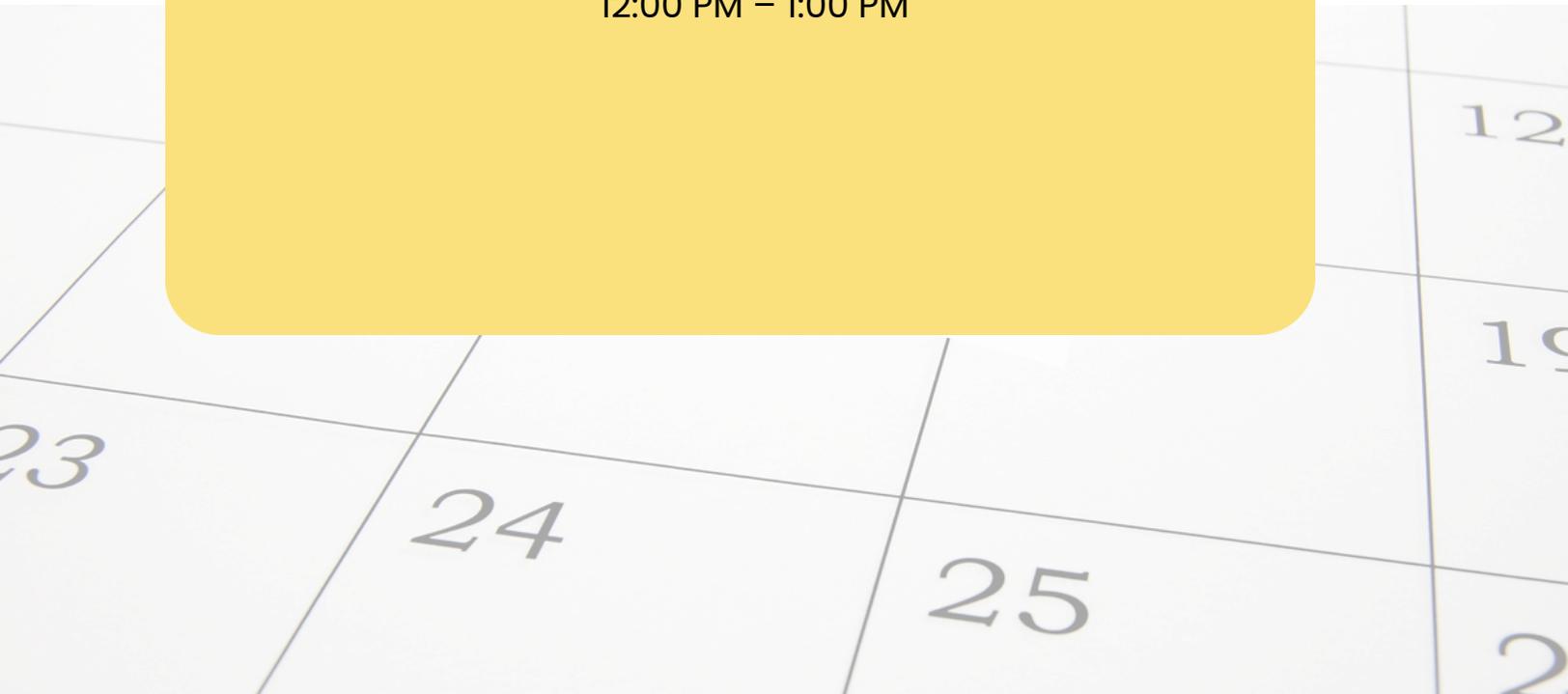
Date & Time

Wednesday, December 3rd
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

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

Date & Time

Tuesday, January 27th 2026
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM



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KidWell Meeting Details

NEW NAME, NEW TIME

Q-CONNECT

We're continuing the momentum! As a reminder, **QCMC meetings are now Q-Connect** — your space for collaboration, learning, and connection across the KidWell Network.

Q-Connect Purpose:

A dedicated space to collaborate, share updates, and innovate together. Each session focuses on reviewing network quality performance, strengthening workflows, exchanging best practices, and driving improvements in patient care—all while building stronger connections across our community.

Virtual Meeting Time:

 Meetings alternate between 12–1 PM and 1–2 PM each month.

Upcoming Schedule:

- Dec 3, 2025 – 12–1 PM



Looking Ahead:

Keep an eye out for your **new 2026 Q-Connect calendar invites**—coming soon! We can't wait to continue advancing quality, connection, and collaboration into the new year.

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KidWell Meeting Details

SPOTLIGHT FEATURE



Q-CONNECT

Join us on Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025, 12 PM- 1 PM



Join us for this month's **Q-CONNECT**, for a hands-on session focused on strengthening communication and care coordination between community PCPs and the Nemours Surgery Team



Featured Guest Speaker:

Kirk Reichard, MD, MBA, FACS, FAAP

Surgical Director, Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery



Discussion Topics

- **Introduction to the Surgery Team** and their communication workflow
- **What PCPs will receive on Day of Surgery (DOS):**
- **EPIC Functionality Preview**
- **Community Provider Feedback:**
 - Opportunity for PCPs to share whether the documentation meets their clinical needs
- **G-Tube Mini-Education Session:**
 - A quick refresher for PCPs and clinical staff to support confidence in G-Tube care



Live, On-Site & Hands-On

We will be **broadcasting live from PAC in Milton**, offering a unique, hands-on learning experience with GT dolls and real-time demonstrations.



After the Session

All practices will receive the **updated Surgical Contacts** List for easier communication and care coordination.

👉 **Don't miss this opportunity to learn, engage, and enhance your practice's connection with the surgical team.**



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Additional Resources:

Immunization Coalition of Delaware – At a Glance

National Respiratory Illness Snapshot

Current trends show:

- **RSV** increasing in southeastern & southern states
- **COVID-19 activity low**
- **Influenza low but rising**

CDC In-Season Disease Burden Estimates (Since Oct 1, 2025)

- Flu Illnesses: 650,000 – 5.2M
- Flu Medical Visits: 300,000 – 2.4M
- Flu Hospitalizations: 7,400 – 110,000
- Flu Deaths: 300 – 9,300

Delaware Respiratory Dashboards

([MyHealthyCommunity](#) – updated 11/19/25)

Influenza vs COVID-19 — Statewide		
Metric	Flu	COVID-19
New Cases	26	4
Total Cases	112	516
Hospitalizations	0	Avg daily 0.6
Vaccine Doses Administered	185,974	56,275
% Vaccinated	18.5%	n/a
Wastewater Levels	Very Low	Very Low
New Cases by County (This Week)		
County	Flu	COVID-19
New Castle	18	31
Kent	4	6
Sussex	4	9

*sharing helpful updates from our partners and trusted sources



Additional Resources:

Immunization Coalition of Delaware – At a Glance

Measles 2025 – U.S. Situation Update (as of 11/19/25)

- 1,753 confirmed cases across 43 jurisdictions
- 45 outbreaks (3+ related cases)
- 1,530 cases are outbreak-associated
- 23 international visitor cases
- 3 reported deaths

Age Distribution & Hospitalizations

- Under 5 years: 466 cases (27%) | 100 hospitalized
- 5–19 years: 690 cases (39%) | 45 hospitalized
- 20+ years: 585 cases (33%) | 66 hospitalized
- Unknown: 12 cases

 [ICD Measles Update Page](#)

 [CDC HAN: Expanding Measles Outbreak & Travel Guidance](#)

In the News

- CDC updated its vaccines & autism webpage with misleading language → Public health leaders responded quickly
- Japan reports fastest flu surge in 10 years
- Medical students are influencing vaccine confidence during clinical rotations
- A man in Washington state died from complications related to H5N5 avian flu

 **For more detailed updates, dashboards, and alerts**

Visit the Immunization Coalition of Delaware:

 www.immunizedelaware.org/



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KidWell Resources Updates:

Check out our newly upgraded website

[KidWellnetwork.org](https://kidwellnetwork.org)

Direct Access to KidWell Clinical Pathways

<https://kidwellnetwork.org/clinical-pathways.html>

**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**

