



# *Evidence Based Education in Rare Disease*

Debra S. Regier, MD PhD  
Chief, Genetics and Metabolism.  
Interim Director, Children's National Rare Disease Institute, Washington DC

December 1, 2023

# Disclosures

Educational grants from Takeda and Traverre Pharmaceuticals.  
Educational grants from NICHD (NIH) and CZI

## A Tale of Two Babies



# Newborn Screening Detects Dozens of Disease.



Metabolic  
Disorders (5.5)



Endocrine  
Disorders (16)



Hemoglobin  
Disorders (2.75)



Immune  
Disorders



Lysosomal  
Storage  
Disorders



Critical  
Congenital  
Heart Disease



Hearing Loss



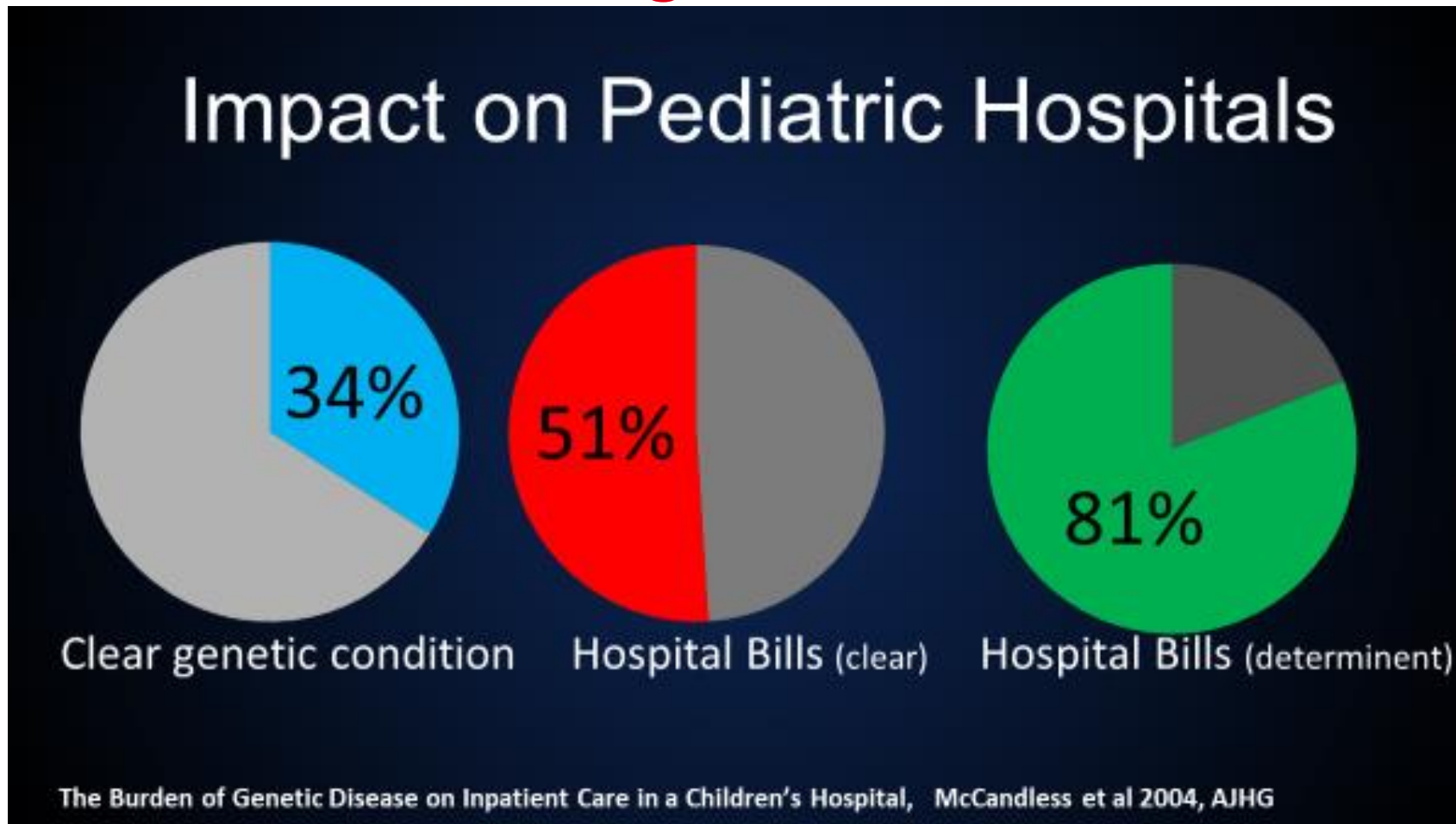
Other  
Disorders  
(CF 5)



## A Tale of Two Boys....

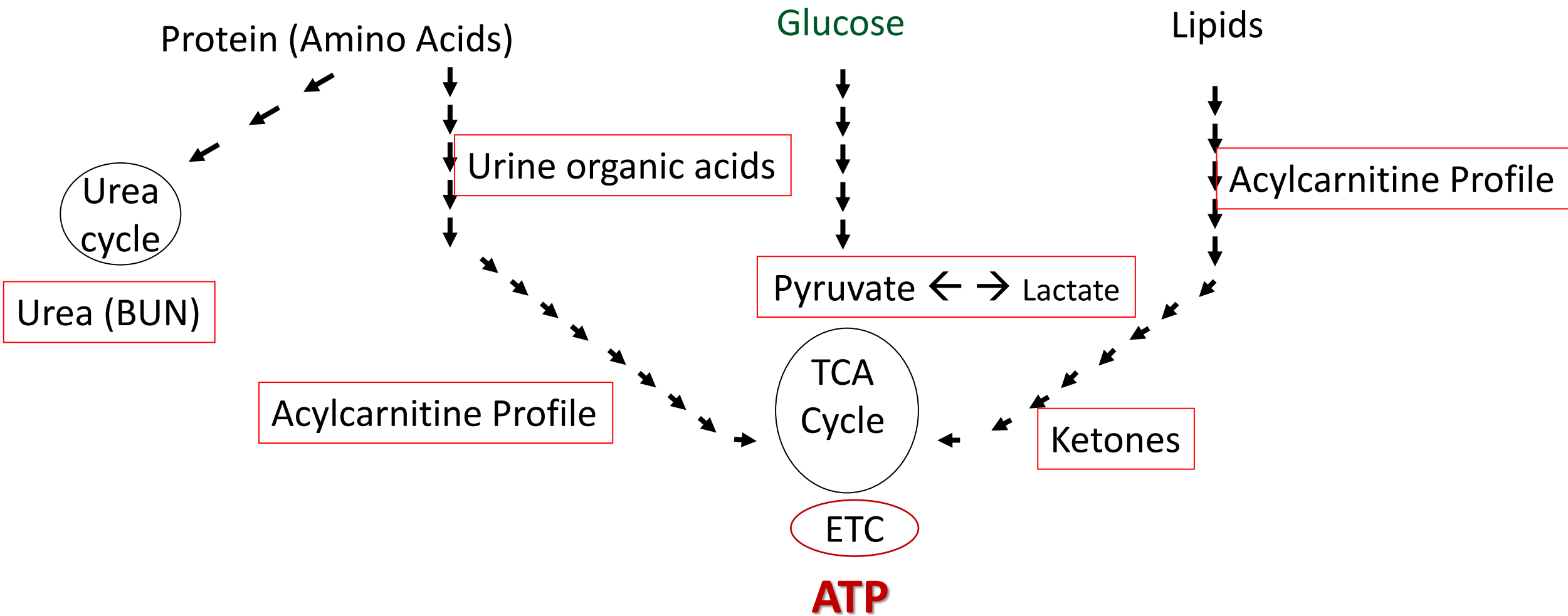


# We KNOW We Are Missing Genetic Patients!

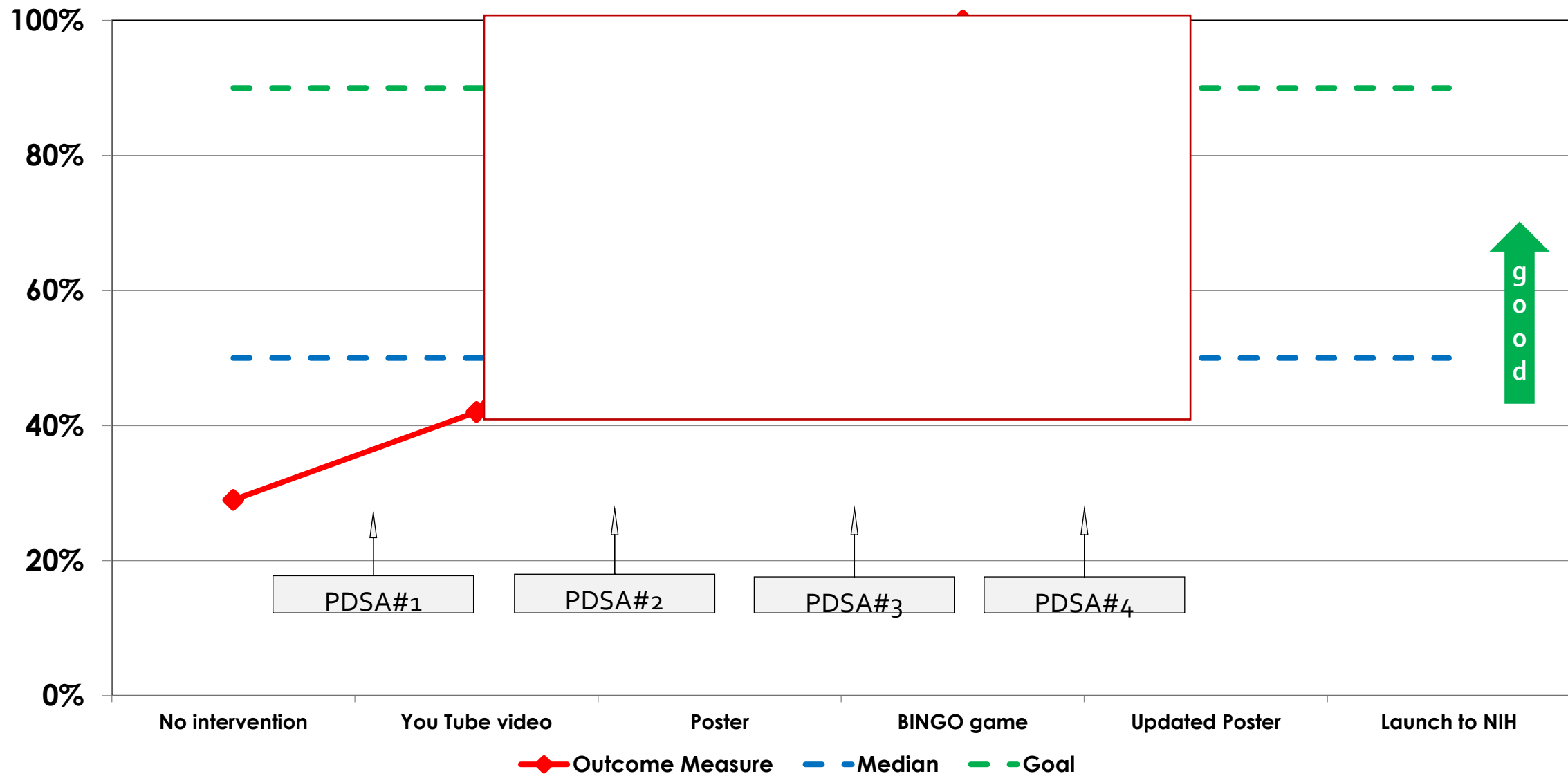


## But How Can We Find the Other Patients??

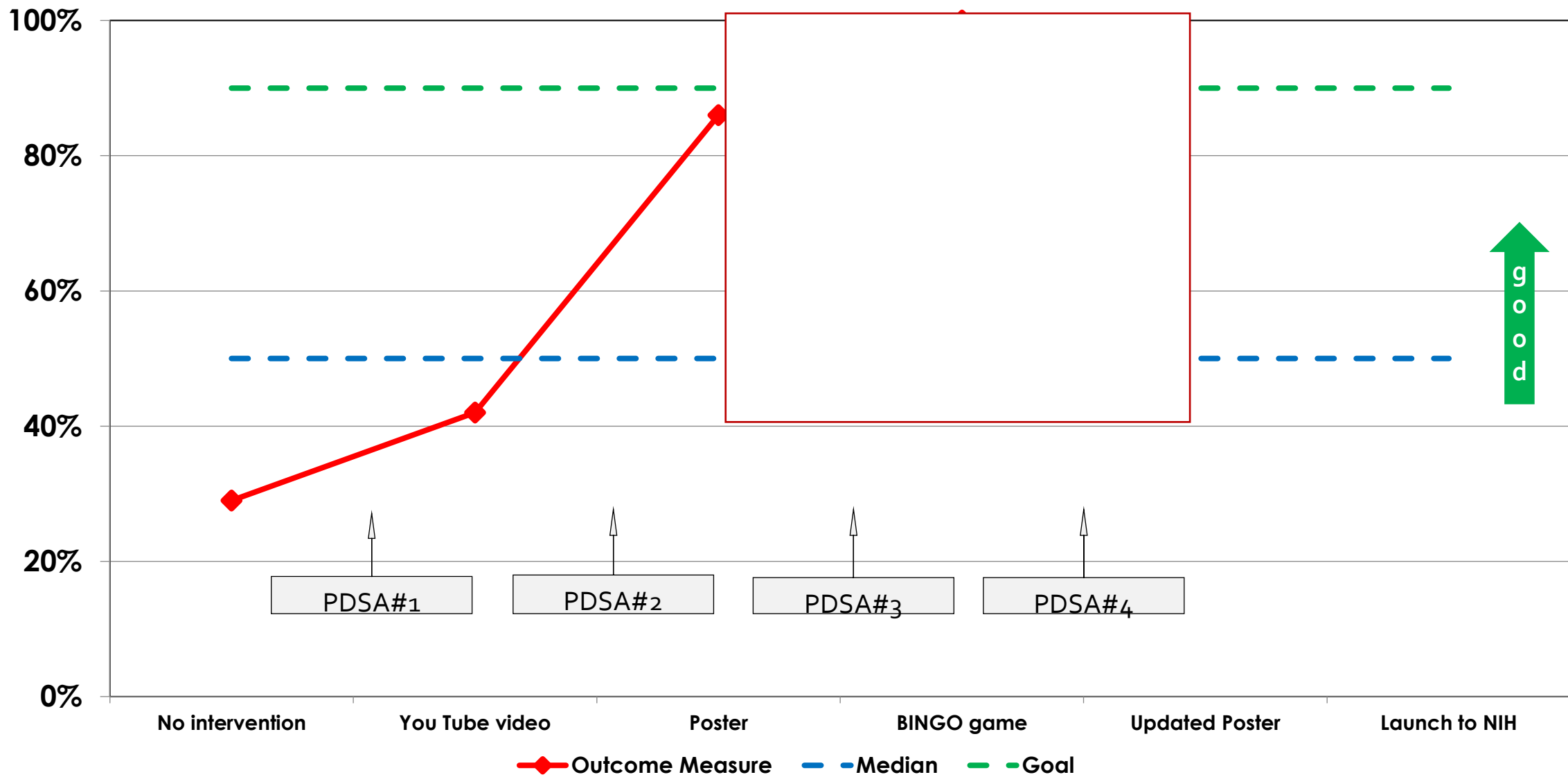
- Increase Publications (well read by other geneticists!)
- Teach more people pathways so they can find patients
- Increase the number of rare disease doctors (we'll help patients in 20 years!)







**...and then we realized not everyone loves a pathway!**





# Top 5 Reasons for Metabolic Admissions...

# Metabolism Situational Awareness:

(Example Sick Metabolic Kid Phrases for IPASS signout)

*Not Sure??? On-call Genetics and Metabolism at pager 50010*

## Brain Edema

"Patient at risk for brain edema (ICP, herniation) If vitals are altered or mental status changes, contact genetics ASAP. Do NOT stop fluids."

For **Ammonia Disorders**, add:

"Send STAT free-flowing ammonia level after calling genetics"

### Leucine Disorder:

- Maple Syrup Urine disease

### Ammonia Disorders:

Urea cycle disorders

- OTC deficiency
- CPS deficiency
- Citrullinemia
- Arginase deficiency
- AS Lyase deficiency

Organic Acidemias

- MMA (also kidney failure)
- PA (also cardiac risk)
- IVA (in severe cases)
- 3-MCC deficiency

## Strokes/Thrombosis

"Patient at risk for thrombosis and/or strokes. Contact genetics immediately for any bleeding, clotting, or thrombosis concerns or mental status changes."

Homocystinuria

Severe MTHFR disease

Cobalamin deficiencies

- eg Cobalamin C

Glutaric Aciduria Type 1

Isovaleric Aciduria

Methylmalonic Acidemia

Propionic academia

MELAS

Some other mitochondrial conditions (ask us!)

## Hypoglycemia

"Patient at risk for hypoglycemia. Do NOT stop fluids. If any concerns, call Genetics ASAP and check glucose."

### Fatty acid oxidation defects

- VLCAD (also cardiac risk)
- LCHAD (also cardiac risk)
- MCAD
- Trifunctional Protein Deficiency
- CPT1 or 2

### Glycogen Storage Disorders

- GSD 1a, 1b
- GSD o
- Other GSDs

(in patients who are sick or young)

### Mitochondrial Disorders

(ask us if unsure!)

## Rhabdomyolysis

"This patient is at risk for rhabdomyolysis, If any concerns, STAT Creatine Kinase, do NOT stop fluids"

### Glycogen storage

- GSD-V (aka McArdle disease)

### Fatty acid oxidation defects

- VLCAD
- LCHAD
- MCAD
- Trifunctional Protein Deficiency
- CPT1 or 2

### Lipin defects

- LPIN1 deficiency

## Cardiac Events

"This patient is at risk for cardiomyopathy or arrhythmias, contact genetics if any concerns, or if acute concern consult cardiology. Do not stop fluids without consulting genetics"

### Propionic Acidemia<sup>[SEP]</sup>

### Fatty acid oxidation defects

- LCHAD
- VLCAD
- CPT deficiency<sup>[SEP]</sup>
- Trifunctional Protein Deficiency

### Storage disorders

- Pompe disease
- Fabry disease<sup>[SEP]</sup>

### Mitochondrial disorders

- Barth syndrome
- Kearns-Sayre
- CPEO
- MELAS
- MERRF

## Something You've Never Heard Of (or NOT Listed on This Poster):

"This patient followed by genetics and metabolism. Call for any questions or concerns you or their family have about their care."

Check Genetics out-patient note or consult note, and give us a call if you're not sure what to expect! Page to 50010





# #1 Admission Reason: Brain Edema

## Leucine Elevation

- Maple Syrup Urine Disease

## Ammonia Elevation

- Urea Cycle Disorders
  - OTC
  - CPS1
  - Citrullinemia
  - Arginase
  - AS Lyase
- Organic Acidemias
  - MMA
  - PA
  - IVA



# Metabolism Situational Awareness:

(Example Sick Metabolic Kid Phrases for IPASS signout)

*Not Sure??? On-call Genetics and Metabolism at pager 50010*

## Brain Edema

"Patient at risk for brain edema (ICP, herniation) If vitals are altered or mental status changes, contact genetics ASAP. Do NOT stop fluids."

For **Ammonia Disorders**, add:

"Send STAT free-flowing ammonia level after calling genetics"

### Leucine Disorder:

- Maple Syrup Urine disease

### Ammonia Disorders:

Urea cycle disorders

- OTC deficiency
- CPS deficiency
- Citrullinemia
- Arginase deficiency
- AS Lyase deficiency

Organic Acidemias

- MMA (also kidney failure)
- PA (also cardiac risk)
- IVA (in severe cases)
- 3-MCC deficiency

## Strokes/Thrombosis

"Patient at risk for thrombosis and/or strokes. Contact genetics immediately for any bleeding, clotting, or thrombosis concerns or mental status changes."

Homocystinuria  
Severe MTHFR disease  
Cobalamin deficiencies  
- eg Cobalamin C  
Glutaric Aciduria Type 1  
Isovaleric Aciduria  
Methylmalonic Acidemia  
Propionic academia  
MELAS  
Some other mitochondrial conditions (ask us!)

## Hypoglycemia

"Patient at risk for hypoglycemia. Do NOT stop fluids. If any concerns, call Genetics ASAP and check glucose."

### Fatty acid oxidation defects

- VLCAD (also cardiac risk)
- LCHAD (also cardiac risk)
- MCAD
- Trifunctional Protein Deficiency
- CPT1 or 2

### Glycogen Storage Disorders

- GSD 1a, 1b
- GSD o
- Other GSDs  
(in patients who are sick or young)

### Mitochondrial Disorders

(ask us if unsure!)

## Rhabdomyolysis

"This patient is at risk for rhabdomyolysis, If any concerns, STAT Creatine Kinase, do NOT stop fluids"

### Glycogen storage

- GSD-V  
(aka McArdle disease)

### Fatty acid oxidation defects

- VLCAD
- LCHAD
- MCAD
- Trifunctional Protein Deficiency
- CPT1 or 2

### Lipin defects

- LPIN1 deficiency

## Cardiac Events

"This patient is at risk for cardiomyopathy or arrhythmias, contact genetics if any concerns, or if acute concern consult cardiology. Do not stop fluids without consulting genetics"

### Propionic Acidemia<sup>[SEP]</sup>

### Fatty acid oxidation defects

- LCHAD
- VLCAD
- CPT deficiency<sup>[SEP]</sup>
- Trifunctional Protein Deficiency

### Storage disorders

- Pompe disease
- Fabry disease<sup>[SEP]</sup>

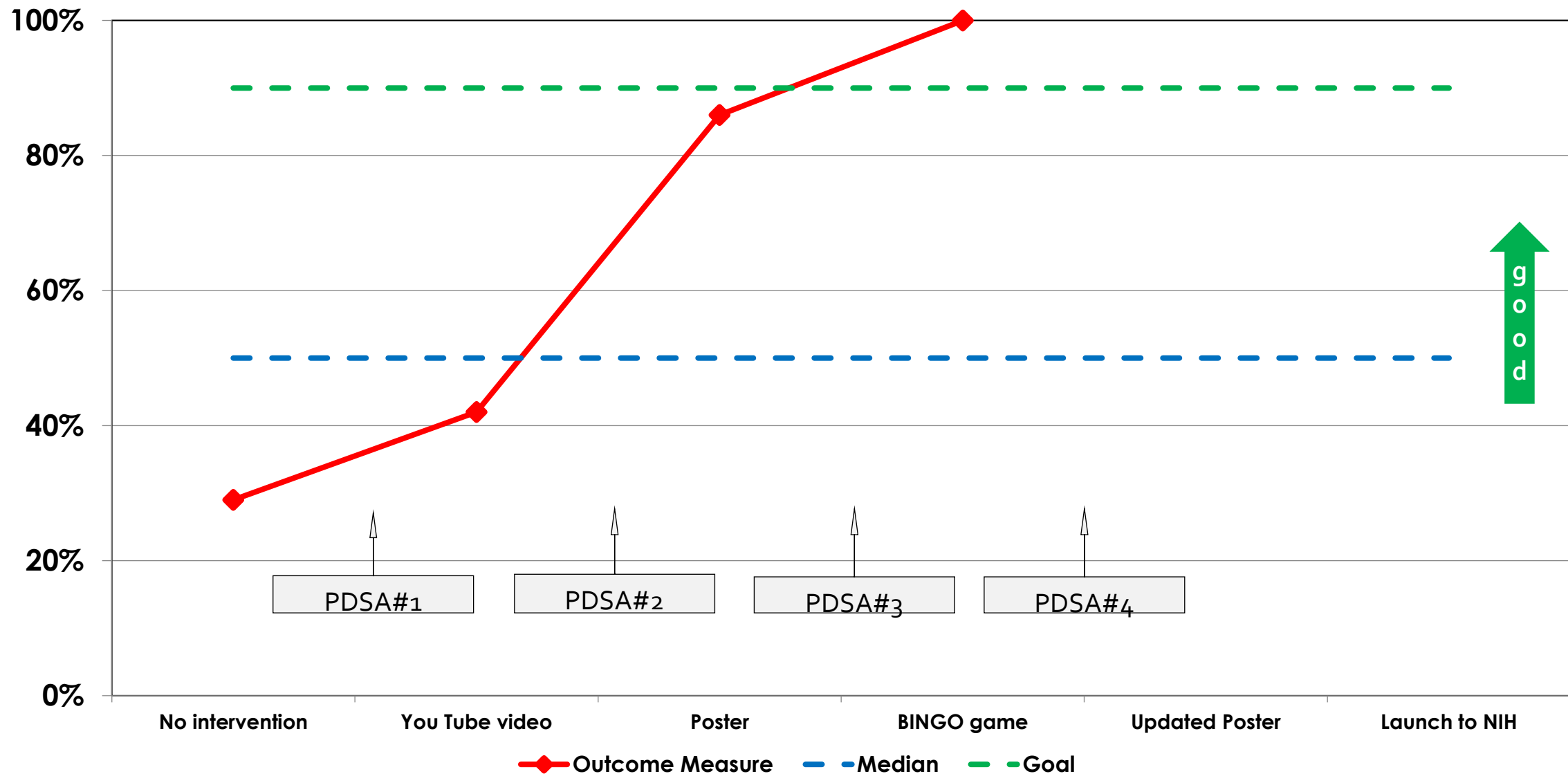
### Mitochondrial disorders

- Barth syndrome
- Kearns-Sayre
- CPEO
- MELAS
- MERRF

## Something You've Never Heard Of (or NOT Listed on This Poster):

"This patient followed by genetics and metabolism. Call for any questions or concerns you or their family have about their care."

Check Genetics out-patient note or consult note, and give us a call if you're not sure what to expect! Page to 50010



# Genetics Bingo of Treatments (Each Team During COVID)

M	E	T	A	B
D10 Normal	Confirm the Newborn Screen ASAP	Give MCT oil (medium chain triglyceride)	Get a STAT Ammonia	More Protein
Essential Amino Acids	Start Cornstarch	Send Urine Organic Acids	Send Urine AMINO ACIDS (NOT!!!)	D10 ½ Normal Saline
Find out how they are making formula	Give a low protein diet	<b>CALL A METABOLIST: FREE!!!</b>	Intralipid	GIR (fill in the blank)
Send Acylcarnitine Profile	No Protein	Start an ammonia scavenger	Give a lowfat diet	Check Plasma Amino Acids
Cerebral Edema Risk	Start valine and isoleucine (even with MSUD!)	Give the 40 year old his formula ASAP	Call the metabolic dietitian	Never Stop the Fluids

# Even My Best Wasn't Enough

~9,000 visits per year

12 physicians

10 genetic counselors

2 advanced practice providers

Enough clinic space

40% telemedicine for access

.....

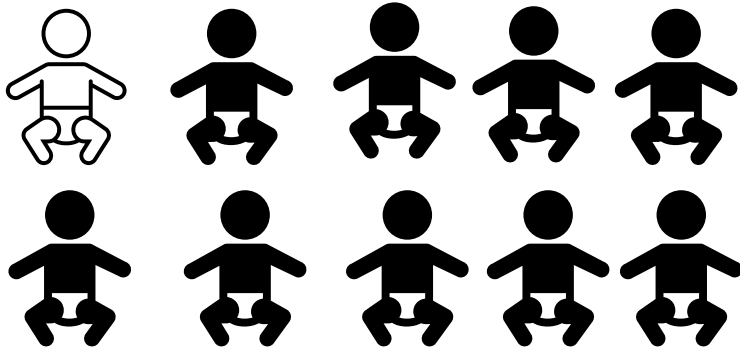
Still a 9 month wait!



## RARE DISEASE FACTS



Learn more at: [rarediseases.org](http://rarediseases.org)



### RARE DISEASE:

Any disease, disorder, illness or condition affecting fewer than

**200,000**

people in the United States is considered rare.<sup>1</sup>

There are approximately

**7,000**

RARE DISEASES.<sup>2</sup>

More than

**90%**

of rare diseases are **WITHOUT** an FDA-approved treatment.<sup>9</sup>



It's estimated that

**25-30**

**MILLION AMERICANS**  
(almost 1 in 10) have rare diseases.<sup>7</sup>

Most rare diseases are **genetic** or have a genetic component.<sup>3</sup>



**For many rare diseases,** signs may be observed at birth or in childhood.<sup>5</sup>



**ALL PEDIATRIC CANCERS**

are rare.<sup>8</sup>



There are more than

**500**

types of rare cancers.<sup>6</sup>



**Many rare diseases** result in premature deaths of infants and young children, or are fatal in early childhood.<sup>4</sup>



[Special Announcement: Letter from NORD's CEO, Peter L. Saltonstall](#)

[For Patients & Caregivers](#) [For Clinicians & Researchers](#) [For Patient Organizations](#) [NORD en Español](#) [Contact NORD](#) [Q](#)



[Rare Disease News](#) [Resource Library](#) [About Us](#) [Events](#) [Donate](#)

[Understanding Rare Disease](#) [Living with a Rare Disease](#) [Community Support](#) [Advancing Research](#) [Driving Policy](#) [Get Involved](#)

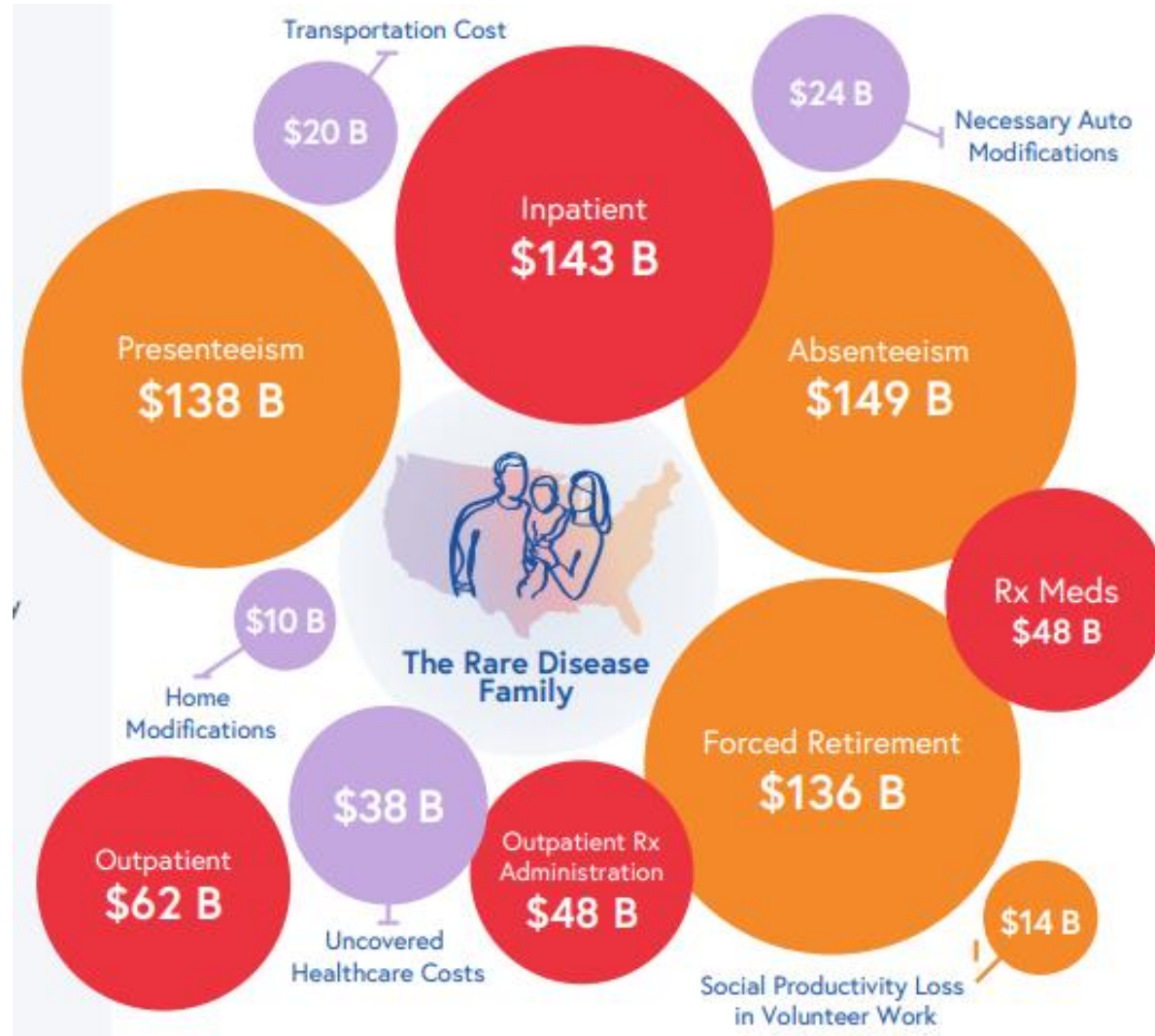


# We have a Beautiful & RARE Chance

NORD advances practical, meaningful, and enduring change so people with rare diseases can live their fullest and best lives. Every day, we elevate care, advance research, and drive policy in a purposeful and holistic manner to lift up the rare disease community.

## National Organization for Rare Disorders

# Economic Burden of Rare Disease: Almost 1 Trillion/Year



# How Can We Build The Rare Disease Clinical Community?

Medical Student

Residency #1

Residency #2

Fellowship



# Sick Baby Program...Metabolism to the Broader Community

Seven day old with decreased oral intake, floppy, new abnormal movements

**Birth and Medical History:**

- Notable for home birth. The delivery provider was worried when came by today and referred to ED.
- Full term infant, BW 3.8kg
- Newborn Screening: Normal
- Pregnancy Hx: Mother GBS positive
- Diet: Standard infant formula

**Family History:**

- First time parents. Healthy. Prenatal care did not include genetic testing.

**Physical Exam & Labs**

Parent Interview

What is Your Differential Ranking? Click Here

1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.

Five day old with decreased oral intake, decreased urine output, and decreased energy for 24 hours

**Birth and Medical History:**

- Full term infant, BW 2.5kg
- Small for gestational age.
- Newborn Screening: Pending.

**Family History:**

- Family is of African American and Caucasian descent.
- Healthy 1 year old brother.
- Many healthy cousins.
- Parents not known to be related.

**Physical Exam & Labs**

Parent Interview

What is Your Differential Ranking? Click Here

From the list provided below, drag and drop your top 5 diagnoses to the numbered boxes on the right.

**Sepsis**

- Sepsis: Prenatal exposure
- Sepsis: UTI
- Sepsis: Meningitis

**Cardiovascular**

- Cardiovascular: Cardiomyopathy
- Cardiovascular: Heart Failure

**Metabolic**

- Metabolic: Amino Acid Disorder
- Metabolic: Organic Acidemia
- Metabolic: Urea Cycle Disorder
- Metabolic: Fatty Acid Oxidation Disorder

**Neurological**

- Neuro: Non-accidental Trauma
- Neuro: Epilepsy
- Neuro: Brain Malformation

**Exposure**

- Formula Preparation

**Congenital/Structural Abnormality**

- Pyloric Stenosis

**Respiratory**

- Respiratory: RSV

**Ranking Round 1**

1.

2.


3.

4.


5.

Submit

177  
94  
71/40 (41)  
RR 73



168  
96  
69/38 (42)  
RR 64



Funding provided by the George Washington University Pilot Project Grant for Education

Children's National.



Household item	Length
US one dollar bill	6.14 in., 156 mm
US penny	0.75 in., 19 mm
US nickel	0.84 in., 21.2 mm
US dime	0.7 in., 17.9 mm
US quarter	0.96 in., 24.3 mm
20 oz soda lid	1.4 in., 3 cm
Credit card	3.7 in., 8.6 cm



# How Can We Build The Rare Disease Clinical Community?

Medical Student

Residency #1

Residency #2

Fellowship

Medical Student

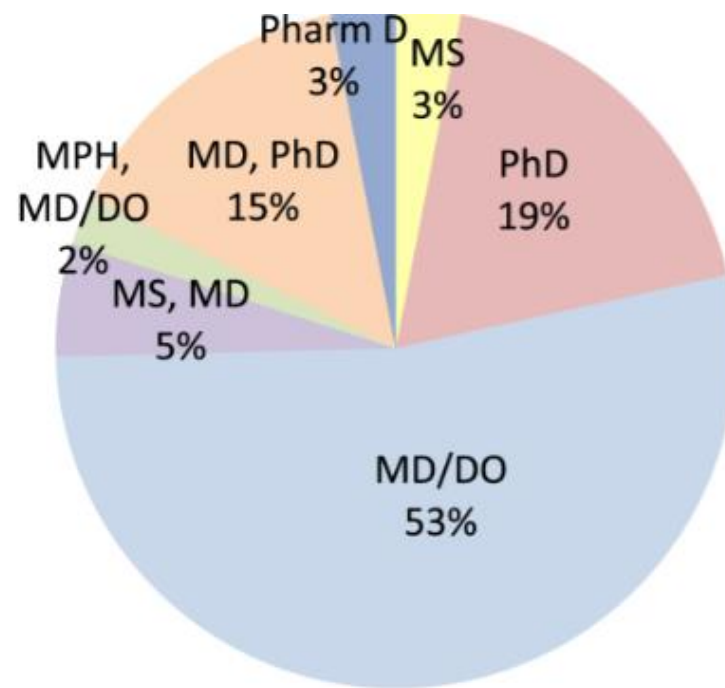
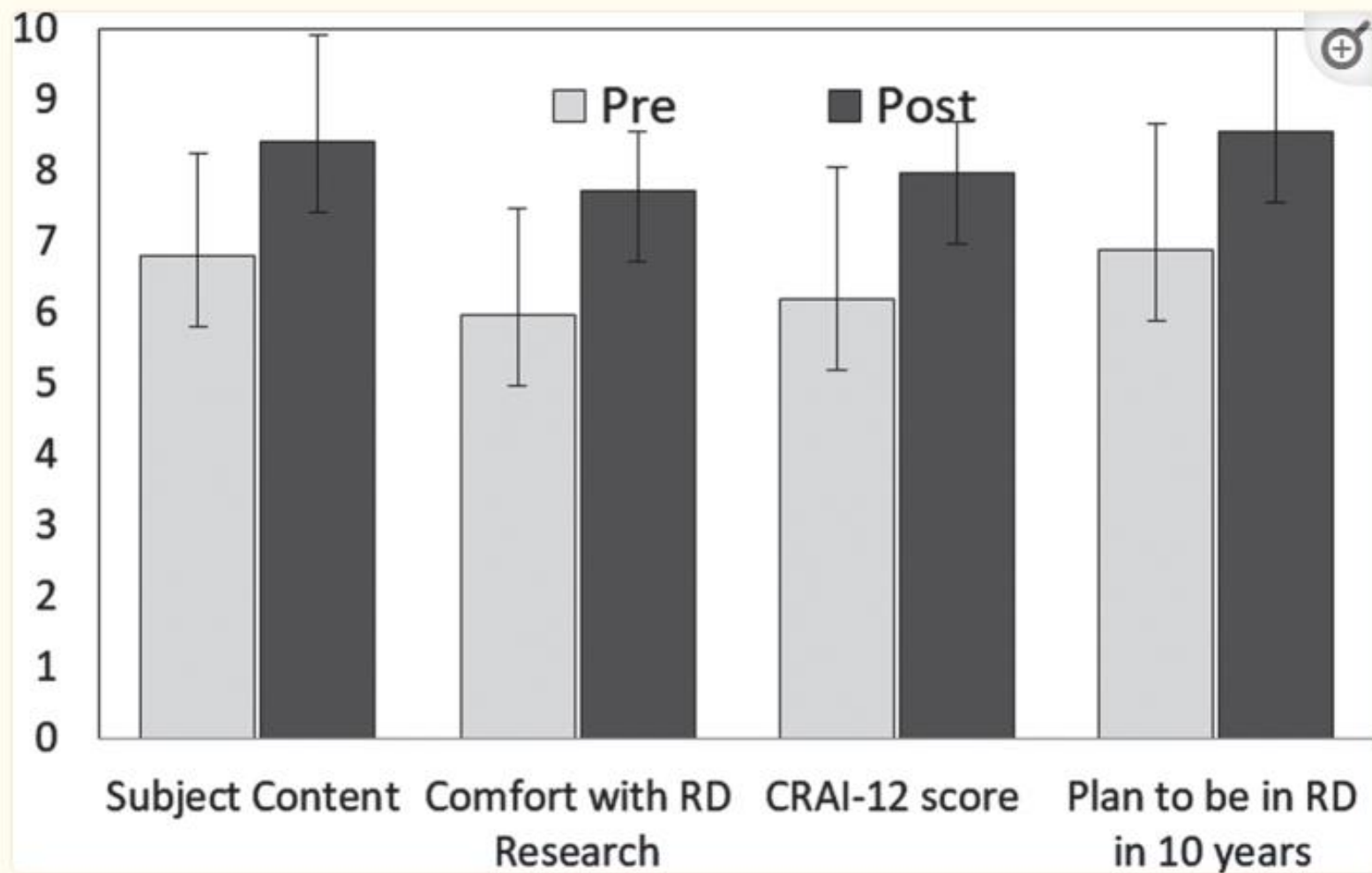
Residency #1

Residency #2

Fellowship

Rare Disease Clinical Research

Support non-Rare Disease Professionals



## The Rare Disease Clinical Research Training Program

# Now expanded....

(and disaster science course  
launching Winter 2024!)

- Clinical research assistants
- Fellows in their final year of training
- Postdoctoral fellows
- Early career faculty with clinical research interests

**Topics Included:** Small cohort statistics and study design; Grant writing and publishing in rare disease; Networking with the global rare disease community

**Program Beginning October 2023:** Year-long course with Virtual sessions (in real time), In-Person sessions in Washington, DC; Twice monthly web-based sessions

**Application Process:** <https://redcap.link/RDScholars>  
(QR code). Limited travel funding available with priority  
for those from underrepresented in medicine groups.  
Rolling enrollment begins 8/15/2023



### Questions??

Dr. Debra Regier, Course Director: [dregier@childrensnational.org](mailto:dregier@childrensnational.org) or Tiffany Swaringer, Course Coordinator: [tswaringer@childrensnational.org](mailto:tswaringer@childrensnational.org)

# How Can We Build The Rare Disease Clinical Community?

Medical Student

Residency #1

Residency #2

Fellowship

Medical Student

Residency #1

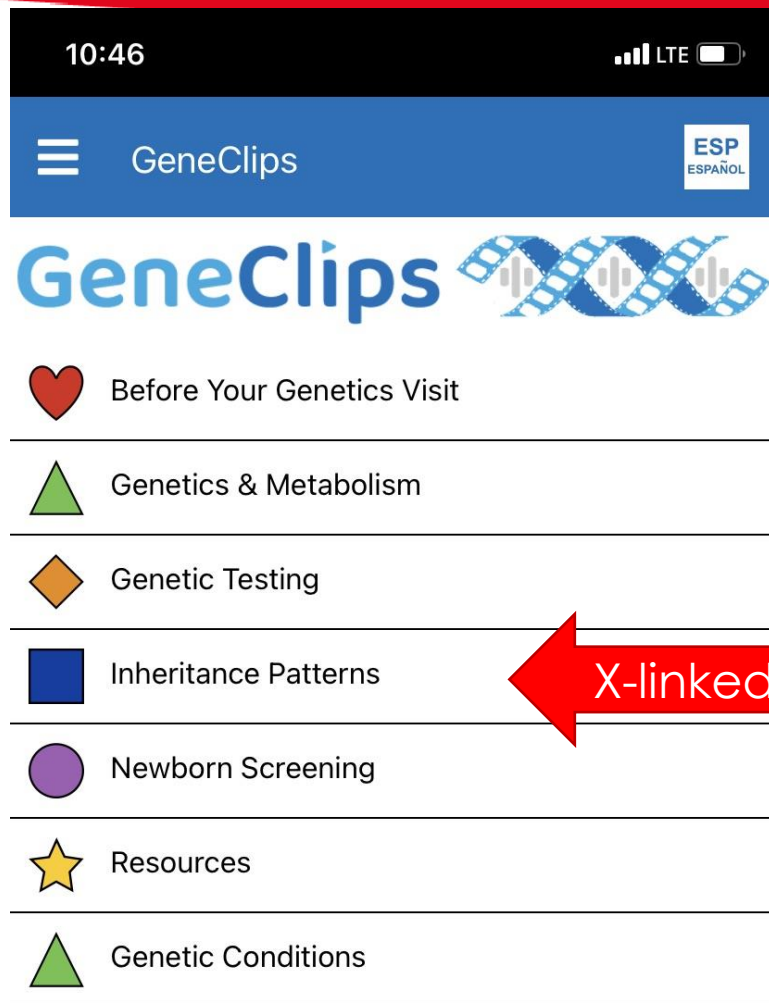
Residency #2

Fellowship

Rare Disease Clinical Research

Support non-Rare Disease Professionals





X-linked inheritance??



# GeneClips



**GeneClips** is a smartphone app made for you to review the medical genetics information shared in your appointment.



**Available for Download on:**  
App Store (iPhone)



Google Play Store (Android)



Please rate and review the app to let us know what you think!



**Children's National.**

Rare Disease Institute

Now on Children's National Website: 1-5 minute videos: English and Spanish



**Children's National.**

# Chan Zuckerberg Initiative: How do we help primary care?

- Don't make toxic things (i.e. help them to use genetic testing in a way that won't lead to more frustrations)
- Give them what they can use (CME Credits)
- Don't give them what they cannot use (Busy Work)
- Scavenge toxic things (Help them identify supports in the community)
- Even if they are stellar primary care providers, they need support
- Know your friendly metabolist/geneticist (i.e. build a community)

Rare Disease  
Diagnosis and  
Testing Strategies

Culturally  
Competent Care in  
Your Community

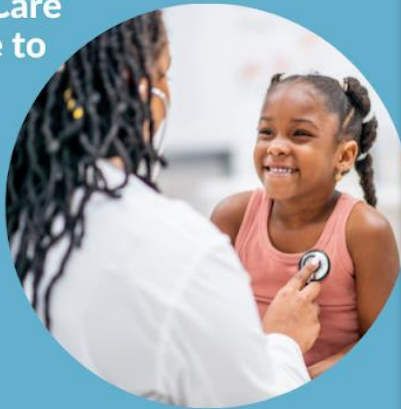
Creation of a  
Patient-centered  
Medical Rare  
Disease Home

Support Mechanisms for Providers of Rare Disease Care

CLINICIAN EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Rare Disease for Primary Care  
Providers: A Short Course to  
Equip and Serve Those  
Providing Care

Now available on-demand 



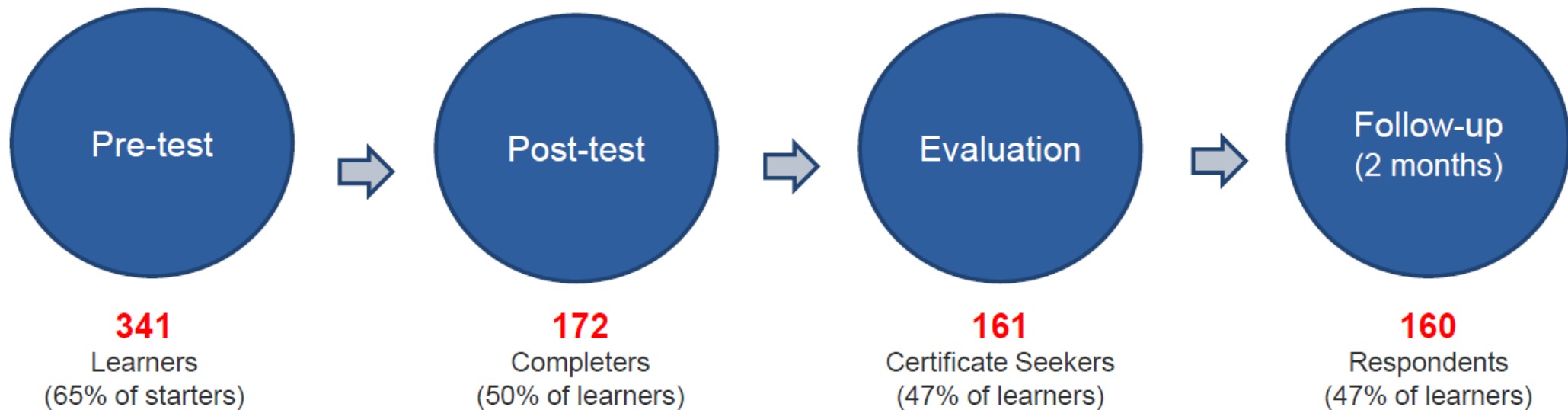
PLATFORM  
HEALTH 



 ClinicalSeriesLive



# Outcomes Methodology



## Definitions

**Starter** – clicking through marketing materials or entering via website and landing on front matter/disclosure page for the activity, including learning objectives and short activity description

**Learner** – progressing beyond CME front matter and pre-test, and initiating educational content

**Completer** – responding to at least post-activity assessment

**Credit seekers** – completing post-activity eval and requesting certificate



# Learner Engagement & Demographics



**341**

Learners\*



**59%**

Clinician\*  
(MD/DO/NP/PA)



**122**

Treaters see an  
average of **30**  
patients weekly\*\*

## Specialty\*

**38%** PCP (FM/GM/IM/Peds/OBGYN)  
**6%** Critical Care/Emergency Medicine  
**5%** Endocrinology/Diabetes Medicine  
**4%** Neurology  
**3%** Genetics  
**3%** Cardiology  
**3%** Pharmacology  
**3%** Surgery

## Years in Practice\*\*

**26%** <10 years  
**28%** 10 – 20 years  
**46%** >20 years

**147**

Activity 1

**54**

Activity 2

**68**

Activity 3

**72**

Activity 4



**172**

matched pre/post  
responses



**52**

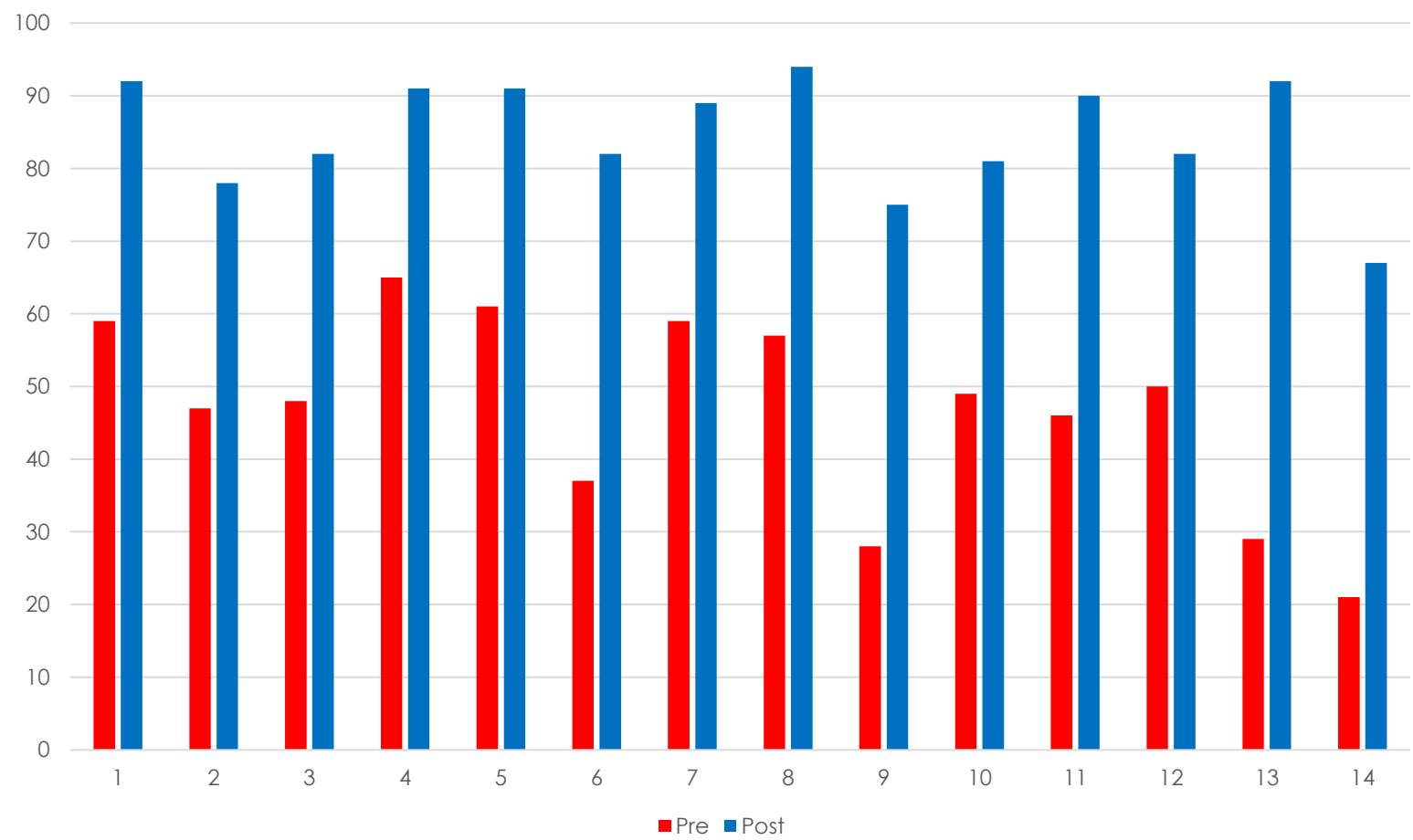
slide downloads



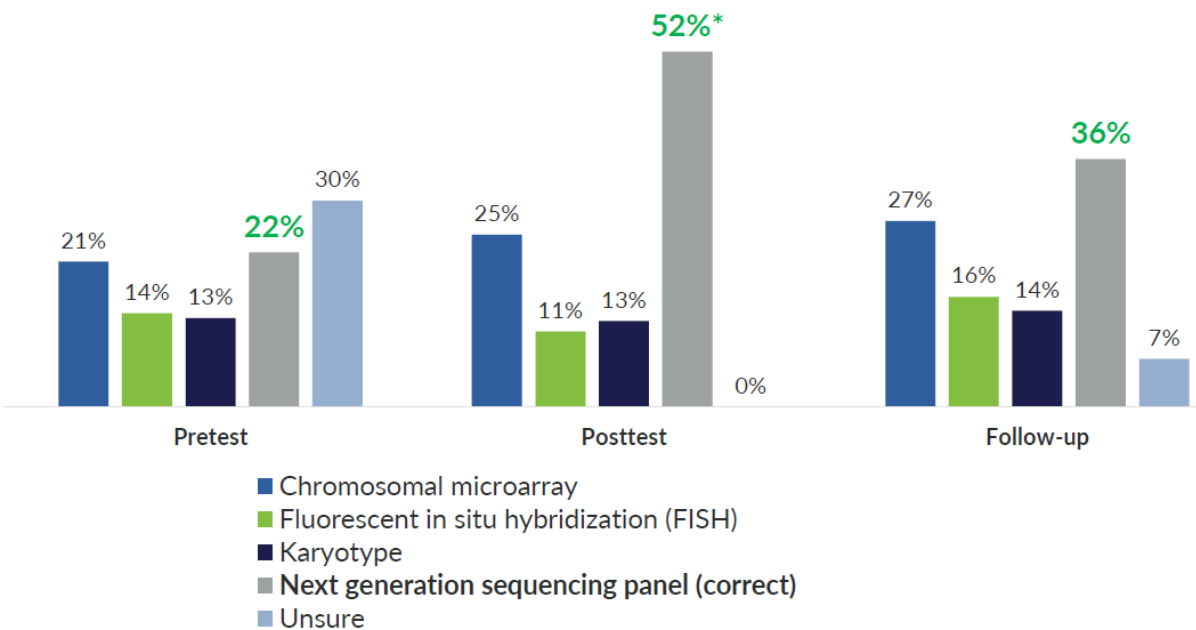
**160**

follow-up  
survey responses

# Outcomes from 14 Core Concepts



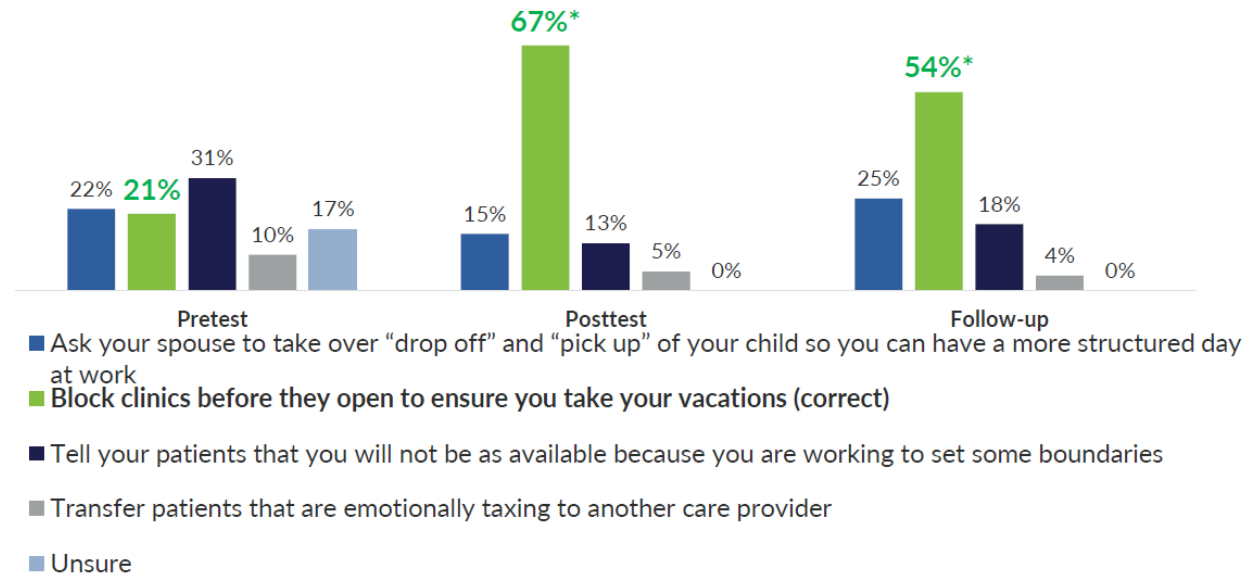
Which of the following genetic tests will identify a base pair change in the DNA leading to achondroplasia?



n = 147 pretest, n = 64 posttest, n = 56 follow-up survey

\* p < 0.05 (significant)

You are attempting to increase appropriate boundaries in your life. Which of the following would be a reasonable first step?



n = 72 pretest, n = 39 posttest, n = 28 follow-up survey

\* p < 0.05 (significant)





# Unmet Need For Content

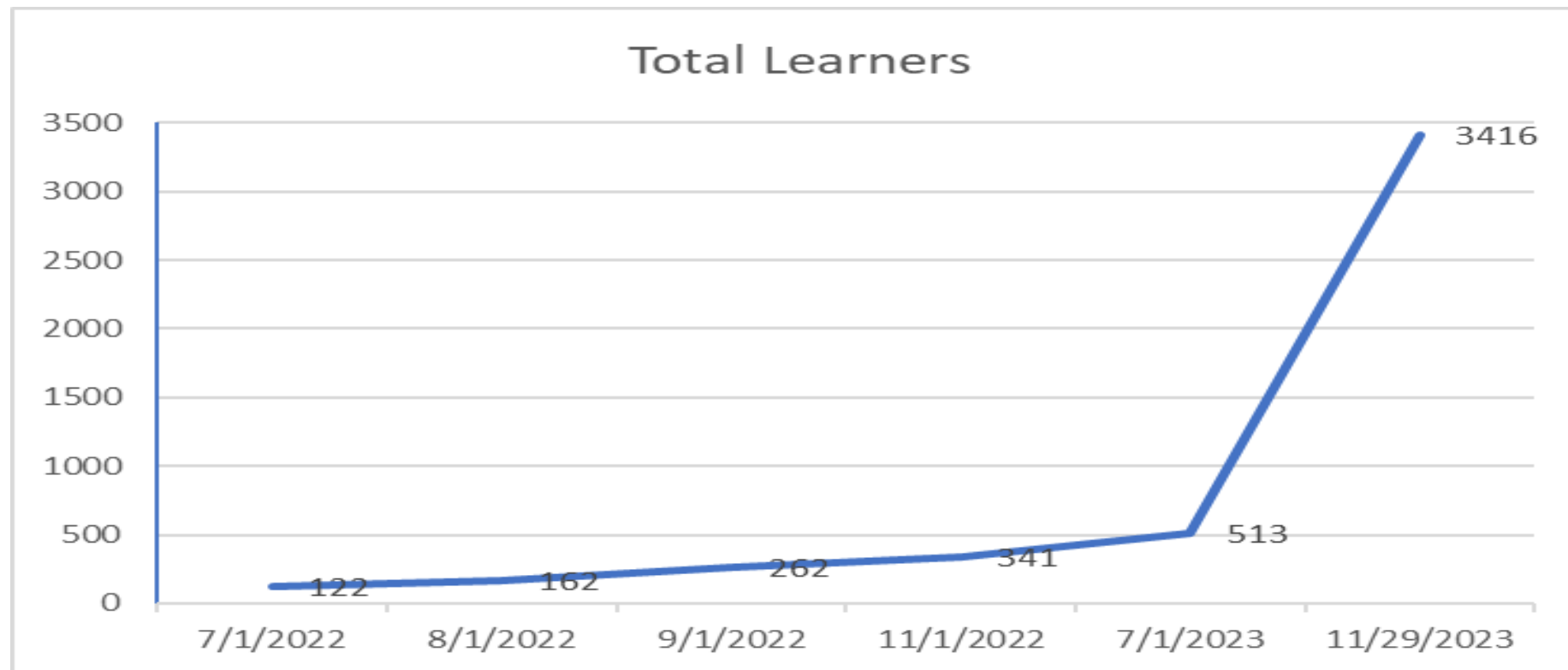
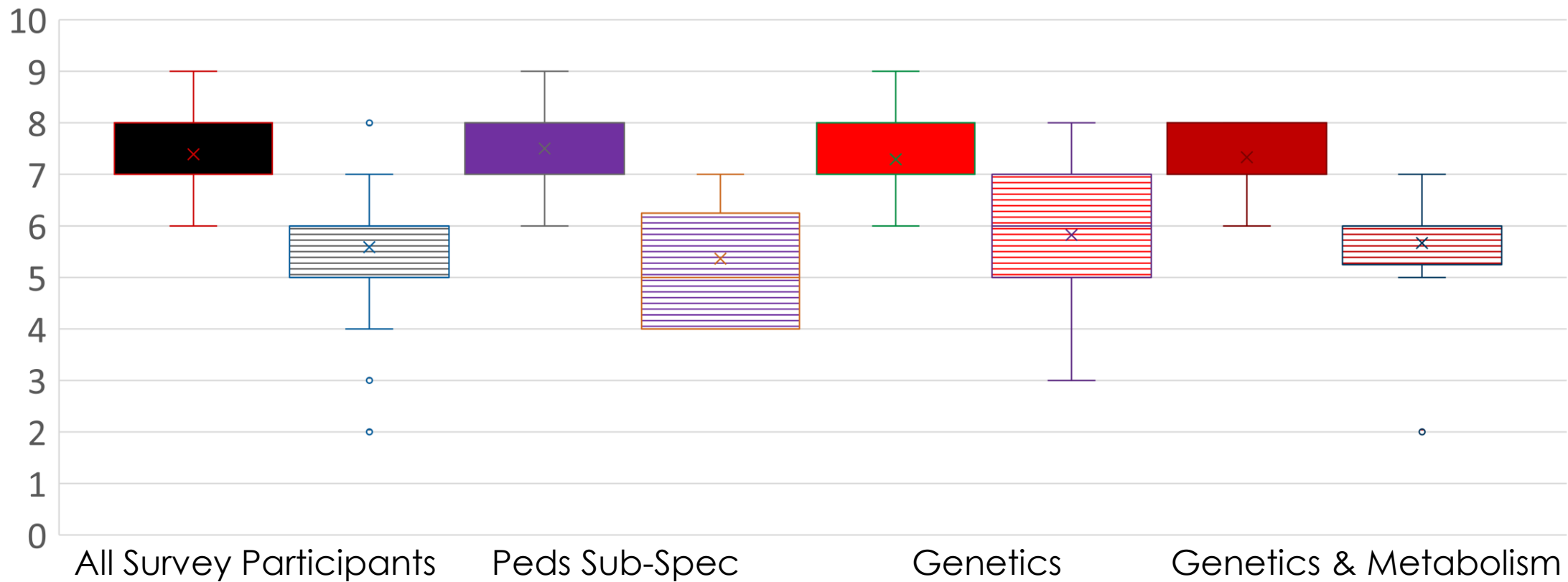


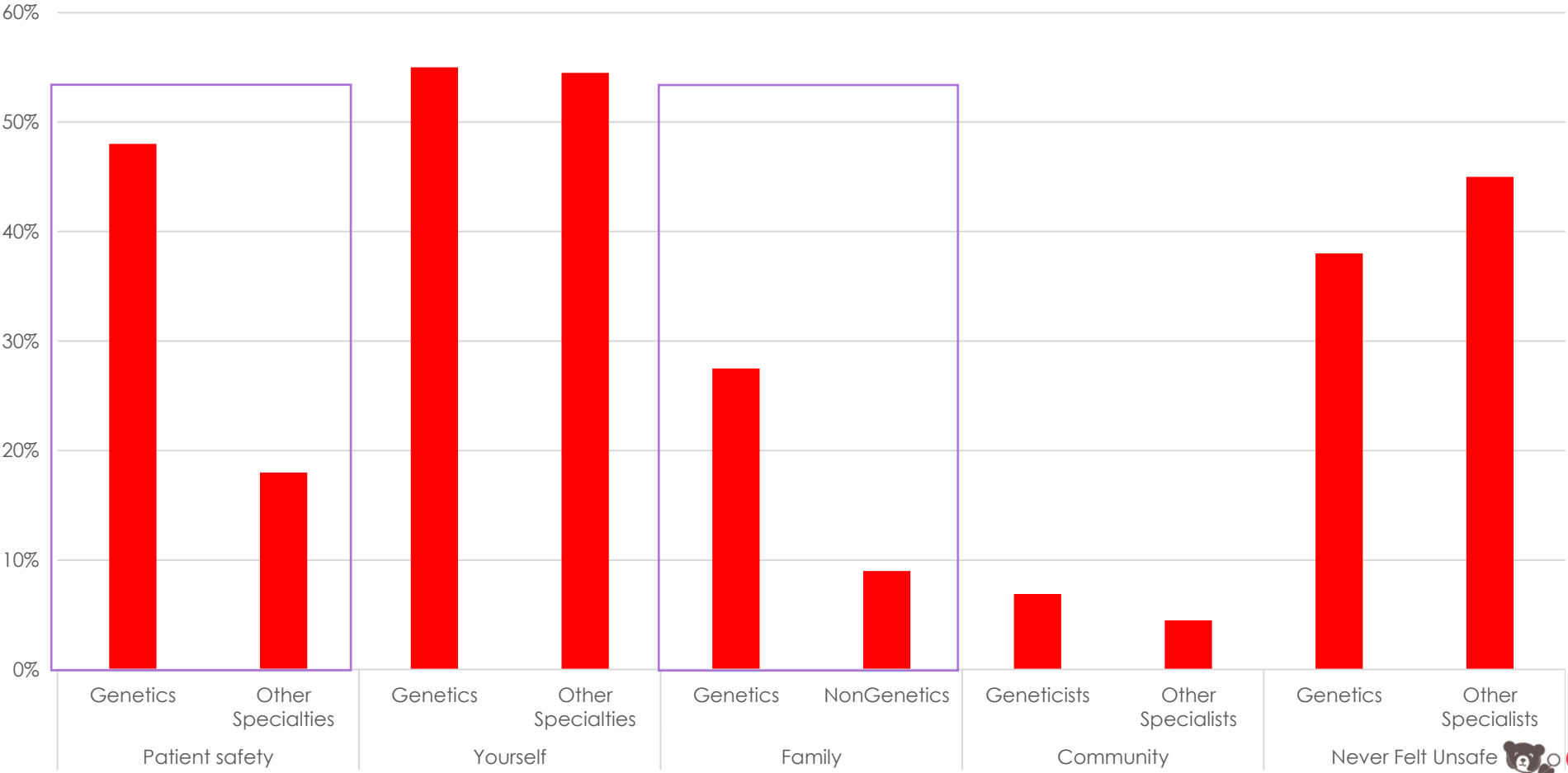
Figure 1: Total Learners Registered for Course: Each unique registered learner participated in 1-4 total sessions.

# Improving Wellness in the RD Workforce

Estimated Hours of Sleep Per Night

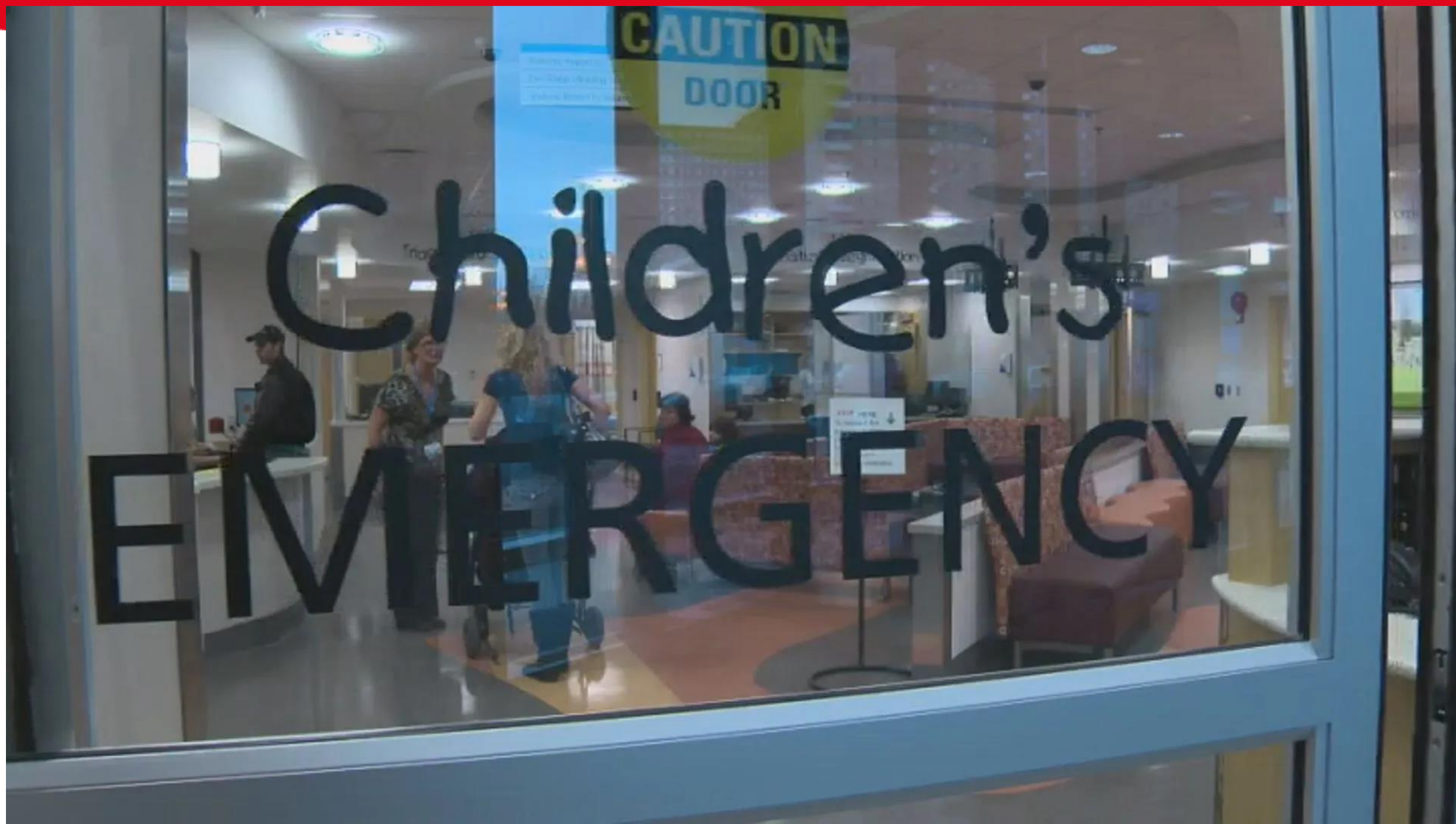


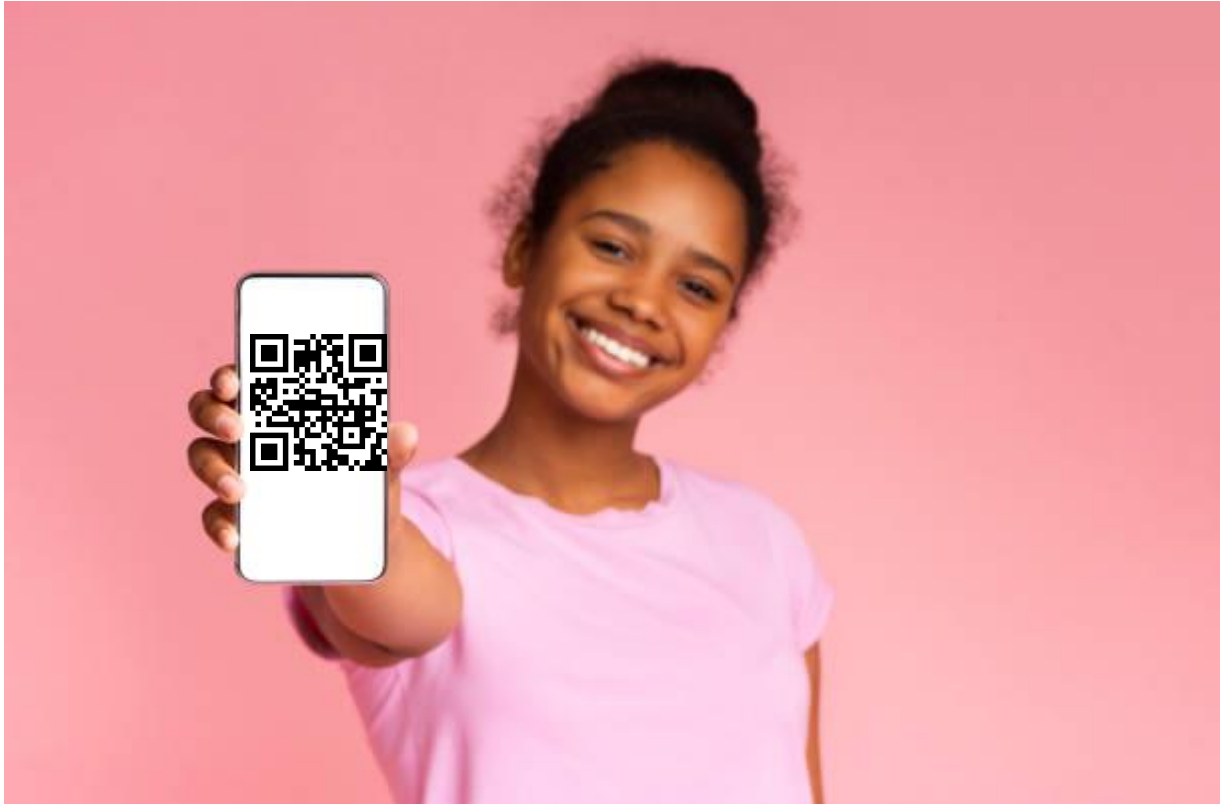
# Physician Worries After a Night of Home Call



CAUTION  
DOOR

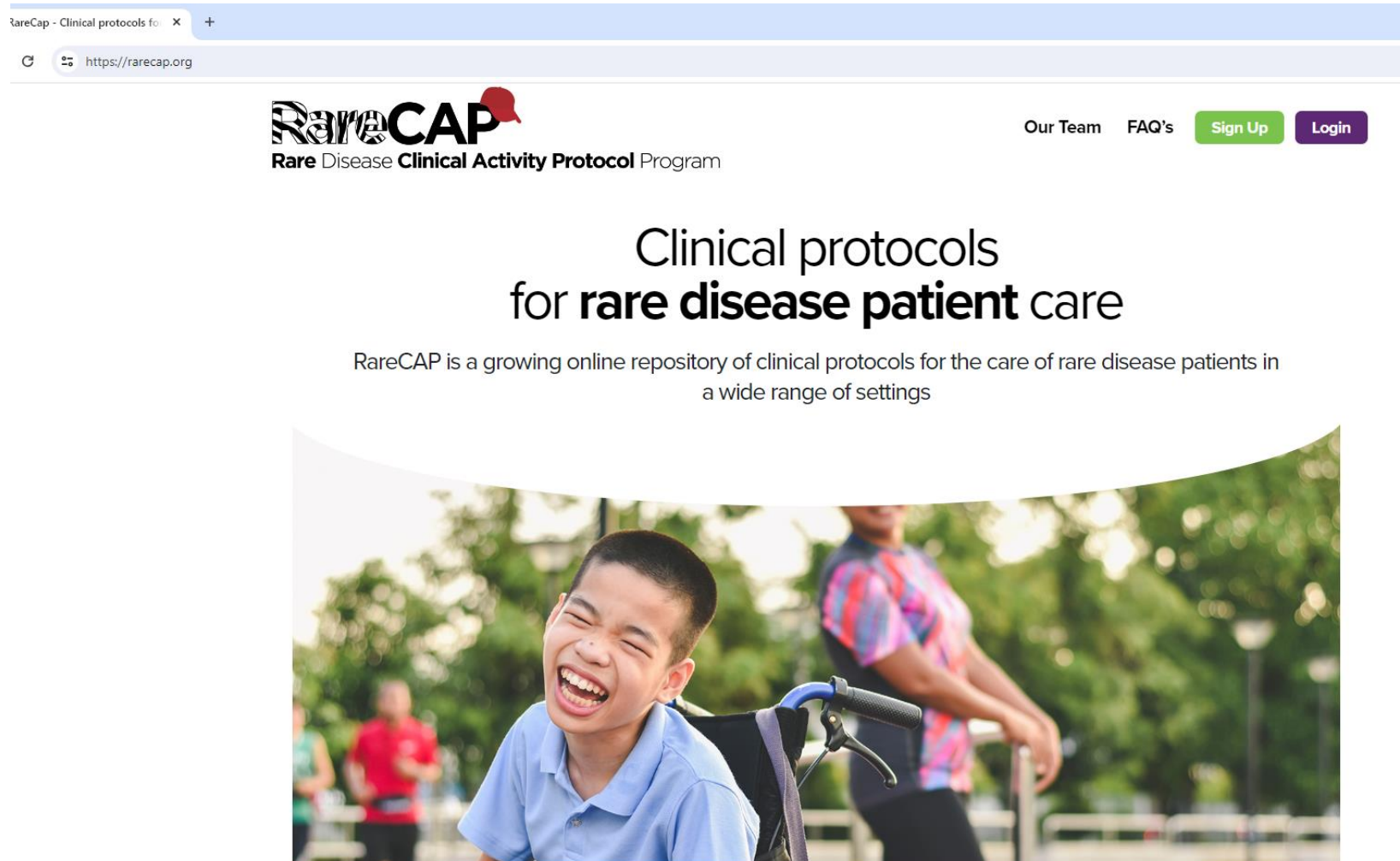
# Children's EMERGENCY





- Emergency Providers
- Pediatrician
- Personal Rare Disease Physician
- World Expert in Their Rare Disease

# How Can We Support Primary Care and Urgent Care?



The image is a screenshot of the RareCAP website. At the top, there is a browser address bar showing "https://rarecap.org". Below the address bar is the RareCAP logo, which consists of the word "RareCAP" in a stylized font with a red speech bubble icon, followed by the text "Rare Disease Clinical Activity Protocol Program". To the right of the logo are links for "Our Team", "FAQ's", "Sign Up", and "Login". The main heading of the page reads "Clinical protocols for **rare disease patient** care". Below this heading is a paragraph: "RareCAP is a growing online repository of clinical protocols for the care of rare disease patients in a wide range of settings". At the bottom of the screenshot is a photograph of a young boy in a blue shirt sitting in a wheelchair, laughing heartily. In the background, a person in a colorful shirt is visible, and the setting appears to be an outdoor park or recreational area.


RareCAP - Clinical protocols for  
https://rarecap.org

**RareCAP**  
Rare Disease Clinical Activity Protocol Program

Our Team FAQ's Sign Up Login

Clinical protocols  
for **rare disease patient** care

RareCAP is a growing online repository of clinical protocols for the care of rare disease patients in  
a wide range of settings





Search Diseases

## Tay Sachs & Sandhoff Disease [Published: 2023-10-30 12:54]

### Description:

A lysosomal storage disorder in which sphingolipids accumulate and lead to a progressive disorder affecting the nervous system and other organ systems. Infantile, juvenile, and adult forms have been described. Infantile and Juvenile forms lead to early death following progressive neurological disease. Late onset Tays Sachs (LOTS) can have symptoms as early as the second decade of life with lifelong progression, often without lethality.

### Resources:

**Owner(s):** Jennifer Micham

**Collaborator(s):** Debra Regier

### Alternate Disease Names:

GM2 gangliosidosis, TSD

Select a 'care setting' below to view topics (at right):

- ▶ Diagnosis
- ▼ Acute Management
  - ▼ Emergency
    - Hypotension
    - Swallowing Difficulties
    - Nausea/Vomiting
    - Altered Mental Status
    - Menstrual bleeding
    - Airway Management

### Medications - Contraindicated



#### Disease Specific Scenario

In Tay Sachs and Sandhoff disease, use of antipsychotics has been associated with disease progression. Thus, currently these are considered contraindicated in this patient population.

#### Actions with Disease Specific Care Points

Antipsychotic medications (i.e. haloperidol, risperidone, chlorpromazine) should be avoided.  
- Antidepressants and antixoltyics have been used successfully.

## Disease Specific Scenario

In Tay Sachs and Sandhoff disease, use of antipsychotics has been associated with disease progression. Thus, currently these are considered contraindicated in this patient population.

- ▶ Specialists/Systems
- ▼ Therapies
  - Speech and Language Therapy
  - Physical Therapy
  - Medications - Contraindicated
- ▶ Mental Health Care
- ▶ Non-Medical Setting
- ▶ Special Situations



Primary Care 4 Hour CME



**THANK YOU**

RareCap

