



Central California Pediatrics

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Specialty information for physicians who treat children and expectant mothers.



MIS-C in Kids: What Pediatricians Should Know

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What is Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C)?

In May, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a health alert regarding pediatric symptoms of a multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C), possibly associated with COVID-19.

Children diagnosed with MIS-C have presented with persistent fever and symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease (KD) or Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS), including hypotension and multi-organ (e.g., cardiac, gastrointestinal, renal, hematologic, dermatologic or neurologic) involvement. These symptoms may also include a rash throughout the body, red eyes, cracked/swollen lips, red/swollen tongue, swelling of the hand and feet and abdominal pain/diarrhea. Some patients have needed respiratory or blood pressure support in a pediatric intensive care unit. However, respiratory symptoms have not been present in all cases.

According to the CDC, the case definition for MIS-C is an individual younger than 21 years old who presents with fevers, laboratory evidence of inflammation and evidence of clinically severe illness requiring hospitalization with more than two organs involved. Additionally, for these cases there are no alternative plausible diagnoses, and the patient is currently or recently positive for COVID-19 infection or has been exposed to COVID-19 within four weeks of the onset of symptoms.

What Should Healthcare Providers Do?

If a healthcare provider believes their patient is showing symptoms of MIS-C, KD or TSS, patients should immediately be referred to a specialist in pediatric infectious disease, rheumatology or critical care, as early diagnosis and treatment of patients is critical to preventing long-term complications. Depending on the patient's status referral to the ED may be appropriate

Pediatric patients should be tested with both a RT-PCR test (to test for current COVID-19 infection) and by a serology assessment (to detect previous infection). While MIS-C is an unusual illness, hospitals and healthcare providers are expected to immediately report cases mirroring MIS-C to local health departments.

While KD is rare, every year, Valley Children's treats approximately 20-30 patients with KD. This year, Valley Children's has seen and treated patients mirroring the symptoms of MIS-C. Due to the similarities of MIS-C and KD, these patients have received parallel treatments and all have responded well.



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Valley Children's Now Live with New Electronic Medical Record System

Valley Children's is now on one integrated electronic medical record system using the Epic platform. We went live with the system on April 25, 2020, moving from several different EMRs – including Athena and Meditech – into one.

What is CareLink?

CareLink is a web-based portal where physicians will be able to access their patient information, easily make patient referrals, verify that the referral has been received, see patients scheduled appointments, follow the progress of care for referred patients, help to ensure coordinated care and much more. Epic will allow us to seamlessly bridge communication between your practice and our specialists, providing constant, real-time sharing of information to help in the care of your patient.

What are your next steps?

If you currently have remote access:

In order to continue to access your patients' records after April 25, you will need to have an established Valley Children's CareLink account. The first step is to sign and return a new Site Agreement as soon as possible. You can find this agreement as well as answers to frequently asked questions on our website at valleychildrens.org/carelink. As soon as we receive your signed agreement we will follow up with you to ensure an easy and smooth transition for your care team.

If you would like remote access:

Remote access allows you to easily access information on your patients directly from your computer or phone. To request access, please contact your business liaison:

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Are there other ways to refer a patient?

As always, you can use our eReferral system through the Valley Children's website. Non-urgent referrals can also be faxed to **559-353-8888** and urgent referrals can be called in to our Access Center at **866-353-KIDS** (5437).

Please visit valleychildrens.org/carelink for more information on our new EMR.
Questions can also be sent to CareLink@valleychildrens.org.