

**For more information about
cleft lip and/or palate, contact your doctor or the
Maine Cleft Lip & Palate Program**

Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Division of Family Health
Children with Special Health Needs / Genetics
Cleft Lip & Palate Program
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/cshn/index.html>
Telephone: 207-287-5139 or 1-800-698-3624
TTY: 1-800-606-0215



John Elias Baldacci
Governor

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**Services and Treatment for
Infants, Children and Youth with Cleft Lip/Palate**



**Maine Cleft Lip & Palate Program
Children With Special Health Needs/Genetics**



Maine Cleft Lip & Palate Program

The Maine Cleft Lip & Palate Program provides:

- ◆ Hospital/Home Visits for Families
- ◆ Feeding Assessments for Infants
- ◆ Special Bottle Supply
- ◆ Information & Referrals for Services
- ◆ Care Coordination
- ◆ Parent to Parent Support
- ◆ Clinical Team Care

The Maine Cleft Lip & Palate Clinics:

- ◆ Are available in Bangor and Portland
- ◆ Provide early and ongoing evaluation and treatment planning
- ◆ Maintain membership in the American Cleft Palate-Craniofacial Association (ACPA)

The Clinical Team is made up of professionals with expertise in the care of children with cleft lip and/or palate. Families will have access to the following specialists:

Audiologist, Ear/Nose/Throat Specialist, Geneticist, Genetic Counselor, Nurse, Oral Surgeon, Orthodontist, Pediatric Dentist, Pediatrician, Plastic Surgeon, Prosthodontist, Social Worker, Speech/Language Pathologist and Clinic Coordinator.

The Clinical Team will talk with you, examine your child, and review the following: Surgical Needs, Dental Care, Ear Care, Hearing, Educational Needs, Feeding Strategies, Medical and Family History, Nutritional Needs, Overall Health, Physical Development, and Speech and Language Development.



Common Questions:

What is cleft lip? What is cleft palate?

A cleft lip is an opening in the lip. A cleft palate is an opening in the roof of the mouth. Clefts happen because of incomplete development of the lip or palate while this area is forming during pregnancy.

Why didn't our baby's mouth fully develop?

We don't know the answer to this question, but you can be assured that it was not because you did something wrong. It was not your fault.

Will we have trouble feeding our baby?

Some babies with clefts have few problems feeding, while others have more difficulty. Use of special bottles and careful positioning of the baby are sometimes helpful. Your primary care physician or feeding specialist can give you proper guidance.

How will the treatment our baby needs be paid for?

Health insurance will pay for all or part of the necessary care. Additional financial assistance may be available if you meet income guidelines.

What if we have more questions?

Ask your baby's doctor or contact the Maine Cleft Lip & Palate Program. See contact info on the back of the brochure.



Questions developed from the Cleft Palate Foundation