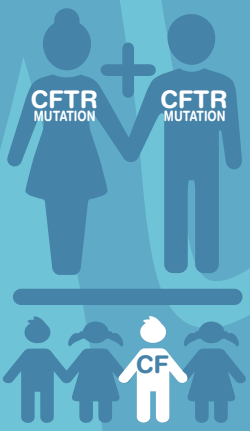
CHEST FOUNDATION

CYSTIC FIBROSIS AND CHILDREN

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is an inherited disease that causes thickened mucus to form in the lungs, pancreas, and other organs. In the lungs, this mucus blocks the airways, causing lung damage and making it hard to breathe. Sixty years ago, children diagnosed with CF did not survive childhood. But today, early diagnosis and better treatment has significantly improved quality of life as well as life expectancy.

12,000
Number of children under the age of 18 in the U.S. who have cystic fibrosis

85%
Of children with cystic fibrosis require enzymes to help with digestion



1 in 4
children from two parents who both carry the CFTR gene mutation will be born with CF

40s or 50s
Life expectancy for children born today with CF

All 50 states
in the U.S. screen infants for cystic fibrosis in hospitals when they are born

130+
Accredited CF care centers nationally

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CF IN CHILDREN?

Children experience a combination of respiratory tract, digestive tract, and some general symptoms of CF, including:

- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Frequent lung infections
- Greasy and bulky stool
- Sinus infections and nasal polyps
- Poor growth and weight gain
- Salty tasting skin
- Wheezing
- Shortness of breath
- Constipation
- Abdominal pain

Learn more at
chestfoundation.org/cf

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Read the CHEST Foundation Patient Education Disclosure at
https://foundation.chestnet.org/patient-education-disclosure