

# How to Host a Medical Center Event



If you are interested in organizing a Rare Disease Day activity or event at your hospital or medical center, the following resources and suggestions may be helpful. Rare Disease Day provides a unique opportunity for community members and hospital staff to join together in rare disease education and awareness.

## Lobby Displays

One relatively easy but impactful way to support Rare Disease Day is to organize a lobby display in your local hospital or medical center. This will need to be coordinated with the appropriate department within the institution (such as Community Relations or Public Relations). You are welcome to download flyers or other resources from this website – or from NORD’s own website at [RareDiseases.org](http://RareDiseases.org) – to include in your display.

## Medical Town Meetings

Some medical centers host community events with speakers who may include local patients and caregivers as well as members of the medical staff. These events provide opportunities to increase awareness of the challenges for rare disease patients and medical professionals, as well as to educate about local programs, services and resources for people with rare diseases. The first step would be to meet with community relations staff at your hospital to discuss whether such an event might be possible. NORD may be able to provide speakers through its [Patient/Caregiver Speakers Bureau](#).

## Medical Grand Rounds or Scientific Symposia

Special Rare Disease Grand Rounds have been organized at some medical centers on or around Rare Disease Day. These events are for medical education purposes and would need to be coordinated with the appropriate department or committee within the institution. In most cases, Grand Rounds are presentations by medical professionals. However, some medical centers have included patient or caregiver speakers in Rare Disease Grand Rounds, particularly in conjunction with Rare Disease Day. NORD may be able to provide speakers through its Speakers Bureau and/or to connect organizers of a Grand Rounds event with rare disease medical experts.

## Need Ideas? Take a look at past events:

[University of Alabama at Birmingham](#)  
[Texas Children’s Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine](#)  
[Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC](#)  
[Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute](#)

Questions? Write to NORD at [education@rarediseases.org](mailto:education@rarediseases.org).