



NEWS

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Illinois Department of Public Health

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State designates hospital for pediatric and emergency care services

*St. John's Hospital now one of only nine
Pediatric Critical Care Centers in Illinois*

SPRINGFIELD – At a special ceremony today, Dr. Eric E. Whitaker, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Director, designated St. John's Hospital as the newest Pediatric Critical Care Center in Illinois. Dr. Whitaker, along with the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program, recognized the hospital for providing the necessary resources and capabilities to address the critical care and emergency needs of seriously ill and injured children.

“We are thrilled to be able to welcome St. John's Hospital as the state's ninth Pediatric Critical Care Center,” said Dr. Whitaker. “St. John's Hospital has made a commitment to a dedicated pediatric intensive care unit with an array of pediatric specialists and services, specialized trained staff and special pediatric equipment and supplies.”

Pediatric Critical Care Center (PCCC) is the top level of recognition in the IDPH Pediatric Facility Recognition program and reflects a hospital that has the highest level of specialized pediatric critical care and emergency care services to meet the unique needs of pediatric patients.

The second level of recognition is Emergency Department Approved for Pediatrics (EDAP) and applies to hospitals that provide comprehensive emergency services and meet specific pediatric emergency care requirements. There are 81 hospitals in Illinois with the EDAP designation.

Standby Emergency Department for Pediatrics (SEDP) is the base level of recognition for smaller hospitals that can provide stabilization measures and have transfer agreements in place when more definitive pediatric care is needed. There are 19 hospitals in Illinois with the SEDP designation.

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Hospitals can voluntarily choose to participate in the Pediatric Facility Recognition program with the goal of improving and enhancing the care of children in hospitals and emergency departments. With the addition of St. John's Hospital there are 109 hospitals in Illinois participating in the Pediatric Facility Recognition program.

“The physicians, nurses and staff at St. John's are honored to receive this designation. Recognizing that pediatric patients have specialized medical needs, we appreciate the benefits of being named a Pediatric Critical Care Center. This designation will help us continually improve our efforts to deliver outstanding emergency and critical care services to children,” said Richard Carlson, CEO St. John's Hospital.

“The faculty physicians at Southern Illinois University's School of Medicine are pleased that St. John's Children's Hospital has received this designation and proud we are part of the quality pediatric services being provided to children in the region,” said Dr. Gupreet S. Mander, assistant professor of pediatrics at SIU and chair of its critical care pediatrics division. “SIU's critical care division has three pediatric intensivists physicians on call 24-hours a day, seven days a week to provide consultation for children admitted to St. John's Children's Hospital pediatric critical care intensive care unit or the emergency department.”

With the recognition of St. John's Hospital, there are now nine PCCC hospitals to provide care to Illinois children. Other hospitals in Illinois that have attained this level include Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge; Central DuPage Hospital, Winfield; Children's Hospital of Illinois at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Peoria; Children's Medical Center at Rockford Health System, Rockford; Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago; Edward Hospital, Naperville; Loyola University Health System, Maywood; and University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago.

Emergency Medical Services for Children program staff visit hospitals seeking Pediatric Facility Recognition to verify the pediatric department and emergency department are capable of meeting specific pediatric critical care standards including:

- A pediatric intensive care unit
- Professionals specially trained in pediatric intensive and emergency care
- Adequate staffing and provisions for pediatric intensive and emergency care
- Adequate staffing and provisions for pediatric consultation and backup
- Availability of essential pediatric equipment, supplies and medication
- Protocols for the treatment of critically ill and injured children
- Access to specialized pediatric inter-facility transport services for critically ill and injured children, as well as protocols to assist in the transfer process
- Conduction of pediatric critical care and emergency care quality improvement activities.

Illinois EMSC, a collaborative effort of the Illinois Department of Public Health and Loyola University Medical Center, was established in 1994 to enhance emergency and critical care for children within our state.

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