



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Allison Bell  
(602) 546-0824  
(602) 202-2229 Pager  
abell@phoenixchildrens.com

**Cutting edge technology now available for critically ill newborns with brain injuries at Phoenix Children's Hospital**

*PCH is the first hospital in the state of Arizona to offer the Cool-Cap system. The system cools the heads of newborns who are at risk for disability due to lack of oxygen to the brain.*

Phoenix, Ariz. (May 15, 2008) – Traditionally, infants who suffered birth trauma that resulted in a deficit of oxygen supply to the brain had very few options for treatment. The resultant condition, hypoxicischemic encephalopathy (HIE), left these babies critically ill and depending on the severity of the injury, facing a life of disability or death. A new, cutting-edge technology called selective head cooling (SHC) has recently received FDA approval as a treatment option for these sick infants is now offered at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

The Cool-Cap treatment consists of cooling the affected infant for 72 hours and then slowing re-warming them for an additional four hours. Eighteen-month follow-up on these patients has shown the treatment to be safe and effective. Infants qualify for this treatment if they are within six hours of birth, over 36 weeks gestation and meet certain clinical and neurological criteria that categorizes them as moderately or severely HIE affected. \*HIE affects 3 per 1000 full-term live births and is the frequent cause of cerebral palsy, mental retardation, learning disabilities and epilepsy.

**Until now, there has been no proven treatment to help newborns with HIE.** "Before, if the baby had a brain injury at birth, there would be nothing we could do," said Dr. Cristina Carballo. "This is such an incredible thing to be able to do." Cristina Carballo, MD, is a highly trained pediatric neonatologist at Phoenix Children's Hospital who is credited for bringing the first device to Arizona.

The first Arizona newborn to use the Cool-Cap is Macie Chloe Reynolds. Macie appeared healthy following the cool-cap machine treatment and is expected leave PCH within the next two weeks says Dr. Carballo. PCH purchased two cool-cap systems which cost \$75,000 each. The FDA estimates the cool-cap device could annually help 5,000 to 9,000 babies in the United States.

\*CDC, MMWR report, Jan 2004

**About Phoenix Children's Hospital**

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's only licensed children's hospital, providing world-class care in more than 40 pediatric specialties to our state's sickest kids. Though Phoenix Children's is one of the ten largest freestanding children's hospitals in the country, rapid population growth in Arizona means the Hospital must grow as well. Phoenix Children's recently announced a \$588 million expansion plan to bring its special brand of family-centered care to even more patients and families. The plan includes a significant upgrade of the Hospital's current campus, an aggressive physician recruitment effort, and new satellite centers in high growth areas of the Valley. For more information, visit the Hospital's Web site at [www.phoenixchildrens.com](http://www.phoenixchildrens.com).

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**Editors Note:** The attached photo is of Macie Chloe Reynolds, who is the first patient to be treated with the "cool cap" in Arizona at Phoenix Children's Hospital.



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