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Arizona’s Only Airway Program for Pediatric Patients Honored with Training Grant
Funds Allow Hospital Experts to Provide Families Specialized Training for Medical Emergencies

PHOENIX, Ariz. (May 1, 2007) – Phoenix Children’s Hospital’s program to treat children with airway illnesses received a boost recently when Walgreen’s Home Care granted \$4,000 for Hospital experts to teach more than 150 Arizona and New Mexico patient families methods to prepare for medical emergencies.

Phoenix Children’s Tracheotomy and Airway Program is Arizona’s only comprehensive inpatient and outpatient service caring for kids with tracheostomies, home ventilators, airway surgeries, and neuromuscular diseases such as muscular dystrophy or spinal muscular atrophy. Program staff have treated nearly 300 inpatient children and provided intensive home care training for their families.

“We provide the best care for these sickest of children and strive to send them where every child belongs – home with their families,” said Penny Overgaard, RN, Tracheostomy and Airway Program Coordinator at Phoenix Children's Hospital. “But parents, like healthcare professionals, need to learn and update skills to respond to their child’s immediate medical needs.”

Grant funds enable Phoenix Children’s to provide families specialized training, including Trach CPR and how to use “Trach Go Bags.” Trach CPR is different from traditional CPR because the parent performs CPR using special equipment through the trach tube, instead of the child’s mouth, to directly reach the child’s airway. “Trach Go Bags” include all the supplies needed to care for a child with a tracheostomy if an emergency occurs.

The 18-bed Tracheotomy and Airway Program at Phoenix Children’s is a highly specialized unit and the first in the state to treat such patients. It includes a team of pulmonologists, nurses, respiratory care therapists, nutritionists, case managers, and social workers who are all specially trained to treat children with airway illnesses. For more information on the Tracheostomy and Airway Program, visit the Hospital’s website.

Phoenix Children’s Hospital is Arizona’s leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest free-standing children’s hospitals in the nation. The most comprehensive array of pediatric specialists in the State practice at this one organization. The outstanding clinical expertise, as well as high patient volume, and an unwavering commitment to caring only for children, all contribute to Children’s leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children’s, visit the Hospital’s website at www.phoenixchildrens.com.