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## **Cook Children's Hyperinsulinism Center Named a Center of Excellence**

**Fort Worth, Texas** – Cook Children's Health Care System is proud to announce its Hyperinsulinism Center is now one of six Hyperinsulinism Centers of Excellence in the world. The designation, awarded by Congenital Hyperinsulinism International, recognizes centers that provide the highest level of multi-disciplinary care to congenital hyperinsulinism (CHI) patients and their families.

Hyperinsulinism is a rare genetic disease in which the pancreas produces too much insulin, driving blood sugar levels dangerously low and depriving the brain of important fuels it needs to function. It affects about 1 in 20,000 to 30,000 newborn babies each year.

"The treatment of congenital hyperinsulinism is very complex," said [Paul Thornton, M.D.](#), medical director of the [Cook Children's Hyperinsulinism Center](#). "It's really important that patients with rare diseases have access to multidisciplinary teams such as are at Cook Children's Hyperinsulinism Center where the approach and the experience of the team members caring for these patients results in better outcomes with shorter lengths of stay, getting the patient's home to their families as fast as possible."

The Centers of Excellence designation comes on the heels of Cook Children's Hyperinsulinism Center's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was celebrated in November 2020. Dr. Thornton built and leads the program at Cook Children's, which includes a team of physicians specialized in endocrinology, pediatric surgery, neonatology, neurology, gastroenterology, pathology and radiology. The team is supported by a dedicated CHI nurse practitioner, social worker, clinical therapist, child life specialist, nutritionist and feeding and speech therapists.

"There are some superb institutions known for providing excellent HI care and participating in groundbreaking research, yet until now there has not been a review process or certificate awarded to these institutions for the care of those with HI," said Julie Raskin, executive director of Congenital Hyperinsulinism International.

The awarded centers are:

- Hyperinsulinism Center at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas
- Congenital Hyperinsulinism Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, PA
- Great Ormond Street Hospital Congenital Hyperinsulinism Service in London, in the United Kingdom
- Charite-Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the University Children's Hospital Duesseldorf partnership in Germany

- Collaborative Alliance on Congenital Hyperinsulinism headquartered in Magdeburg, Germany
- Northern Congenital Hyperinsulinism Service in Manchester and Liverpool, in the United Kingdom

### **About Cook Children's**

Cook Children's Health Care System embraces an inspiring Promise – to improve the health of every child in our region through the prevention and treatment of illness, disease and injury. Based in Fort Worth, Texas, we're proud of our long and rich tradition of serving our community.

Our not-for-profit organization encompasses nine companies – a medical center, two surgery centers, a physician network, home health services and a health plan. It also includes Child Study Center at Cook Children's, Cook Children's Health Services Inc., and Cook Children's Health Foundation. With more than 60 primary, specialty and urgent care locations throughout Texas, families can access our top-ranked specialty programs and network of services to meet their unique needs.

We've worked to improve the health of children from across our primary service area of Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties for more than 100 years. Based on the exceptional care we provide, patients travel to Cook Children's from around the country and the globe to receive life-saving pediatric care built on leading technology, extraordinary collaboration and the art of caring. For more information, visit [cookchildrens.org](http://cookchildrens.org).

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