

Cook Children's Verified as First Level I Children's Surgery Center in North Texas

Fort Worth, Texas (February 11, 2020) – Cook Children's Medical Center has been verified as a Level I Children's Surgery Center by the American College of Surgeons Children's Surgery Verification Quality Improvement Program (ACS CSV). This verification is a first for North Texas and makes Cook Children's one of the few hospitals in the State of Texas to hold this distinction.

The ACS CSV program was developed to improve the quality of children's surgical care by creating a system that allows for a prospective match of every child's individual surgical needs with a care environment that has optimal pediatric resources. Verified centers must meet criteria outlined in the standards document, *Optimal Resources for Children's Surgical Care 2015*. CSV standards ensure that children facing surgery receive care under a multidisciplinary program with quality improvement and safety processes, data collection, and appropriate resources provided to them as patients at the hospital.

The CSV program is based on other nationally recognized American College of Surgeons quality improvement programs that have measurably improved surgical quality and have prevented complications, reduced costs, and saved lives.

"This recognition means families can be assured their children are in the best possible hands when they turn to Cook Children's for surgical care," said Eric Hubli, M.D., FACS, medical director of Children's Surgery at Cook Children's. "We are proud of the incredible surgical staff who work tirelessly to make Cook Children's the best possible place to heal, and of our leadership team who continuously invests in us because they know every child's life is sacred."

Cook Children's commitment to quality care begins with appropriately-trained staff and leadership from surgeons who participate in meetings throughout the year to review the center's surgical outcomes. The surgical team seeks continuous improvement to enhance the structure, process, and outcomes of the center.

To become a verified center, Cook Children's met essential criteria for staffing, training, and facility infrastructure and protocols for care, ensuring its ability to appropriately care for pediatric surgical patients. The center also participates in a national data registry that yields semiannual reports on the quality of its processes and outcomes, thus identifying opportunities for continuous quality improvement.

After submitting an application, centers seeking verification undergo an extensive site visit by an ACS team of surveyors. The surveyor teams consist of experienced children's surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses who review the center's structure, process, and clinical outcomes data. The current Optimal Resources for Children's Surgical Care manual drives the application and is used as a guideline in conducting the survey.

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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.

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