



## CHOC PRESS ROOM

### Hoag Hospital Partners with CHOC to Enhance Pediatric Care in Coastal Orange County

**NEWPORT BEACH, CA, January 12, 2007** - Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian of Newport Beach and Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) are joining forces to enhance and expand pediatric care and services in the coastal Orange County area. Through a formal affiliation agreement with CHOC, Hoag will expand its pediatric outpatient services, and in addition, will create an expedited system of evaluation and transfer of children and infants with critical illnesses and special needs to the specialty children's hospital.

"This new affiliation between our two medical centers greatly enhances the excellent care Hoag Hospital and its pediatricians have been providing to children in our community," says Hoag Hospital President and CEO Richard Afable, MD. "Children and their families will benefit greatly from these additional services. They will have more convenient and consistent access to the excellent specialized care that was previously only available by traveling to the CHOC campus in Orange."

The Hoag-CHOC affiliation will significantly benefit pediatric patients in need of emergency care. Using robotic telemedicine technology, critical care specialists stationed remotely at CHOC will be available to assist Hoag Emergency Medicine physicians in the evaluation and care of pediatric patients in the Hoag Emergency Care Unit (ECU). This remarkable enhancement to care will be available 24 hours a day to children seen in the Hoag ECU.

Emergency transport services between Hoag Hospital and CHOC will also be improved. A geographically dedicated transport team from CHOC, consisting of a physician, nurse and respiratory therapist, will be readily available to transport pediatric patients via ambulance when a child's complexity of care or severity of illness requires admission at CHOC.

Through this new affiliation with CHOC, Hoag neonatal care services will be expanded. Pediatric Subspecialty Faculty (CHOC PSF), a nationally recognized specialty physician group affiliated with CHOC, will staff and provide medical management to Hoag's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, enhancing clinical capabilities in support of Hoag's growing obstetrical and perinatal programs.

Additionally, CHOC will establish pediatric specialty clinics at Hoag Health Center-Newport Beach, a soon-to-be-developed outpatient facility near the Hoag Hospital campus. Offering specialty physician services in Newport Beach will add convenience and reduce wait times for pediatric patients in need of specialized outpatient care. UrgiKids, an after-hours urgent care service for children currently based in Costa Mesa, will also relocate to Hoag Health Center-Newport Beach, completing the expanding pediatric services that will be available at Hoag.

"We are delighted that our long-standing relationship with Hoag has resulted in this new, formal affiliation," says CHOC President and CEO Kimberly C. Cripe. "It's important that families in the coastal community receive excellent pediatric medical care by top specialists, and CHOC is proud to partner with Hoag to provide these much-needed pediatric services."

About Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian: Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian ([www.hoaghospital.org](http://www.hoaghospital.org)) is a 511-bed, not-for-profit, acute care hospital located in Newport Beach, Calif. Fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and designated as a Magnet hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), Hoag offers a comprehensive mix of health care services, including Centers of Excellence in cancer, heart and vascular, neurosciences, orthopedics and women's health services. A recent study released by HealthGrades placed Hoag among the top 5% of hospitals in the nation and a recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence. National Research Corporation has

endorsed Hoag as Orange County's most preferred hospital for the past 10 consecutive years. And for an unprecedented 11 years, residents of Orange County have chosen Hoag as the county's best hospital in a local newspaper survey.

*Making a mark in pediatric healthcare for more than 40 years and named one of the top children's hospitals in the nation by CHILD magazine, Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) is exclusively committed to the health and well being of children through clinical expertise, advocacy and outreach. CHOC's growing healthcare network includes two state-of-the-art hospitals in Orange and Mission Viejo, several community clinics, a residency program that trains tomorrow's pediatricians, four centers of excellence -the Heart, Cancer, Orthopaedic and Neuroscience Institutes, and a Research Institute that brings advanced treatment to our patients.*

*CHOC recently earned the "Excellence in Patient Safety & Health Care Quality Award" from the state's leading health plans, and was one of only nine children's hospitals in the nation to be named to the Leapfrog "Top Hospitals 2006" list, based on results from The Leapfrog Group's Hospital Quality and Safety Survey. For more information about CHOC, visit [www.choc.org](http://www.choc.org) or call 714-997-3000.*

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