



Banner Health[®]

For Immediate Release

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Banner Health facility receives Pediatric Emergency Certification

SAN TAN VALLEY, Ariz. (April 15, 2014) – Banner Ironwood Medical Center recently joined its sister facilities to become Pediatric Prepared Emergency Care (PPEC) certified by the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AzAAP).

The certification means the facility meets specific criteria and is prepared to provide emergency care resources and capabilities for pediatric patients. If necessary, the hospital can stabilize a child for transfer to a facility that offers more specialized pediatric care.

“Banner Ironwood Medical Center has a firm commitment to provide excellent emergency care to pediatric patients in the East Valley,” said Julie Nunley, chief executive officer at Banner Ironwood Medical Center. “The preparedness survey allowed us to showcase the great work dedicated to our pediatric care and is certainly a testament to the commitment of our physicians, staff and volunteers.”

Arizona is among only five states to implement such a specialized pediatric emergency care system. Created through a public-private partnership, PPEC is a voluntary certification program of pediatric standards for emergency departments.

The certification includes three levels -- Prepared, Prepared Plus Care and Prepared Advanced Care. Banner Ironwood Medical Center works closely with Cardon Children’s Medical Center in the event that a patient needs more acute care. Cardon Children’s offers highly skilled and compassionate staff and assures parents that their children are receiving the best possible care.

“Cardon Children’s is the only pediatric specialty hospital in the East Valley, so working closely with them allows us to transfer patients with higher needs to offer more comprehensive care,” states Nunley.

Since 2008, the Office of Injury Prevention for ADHS has spearheaded the effort to launch the pediatric emergency department certification system. In 2010, AzAAP established the certification, conduct certification reviews and offer continuing pediatric emergency education. Only hospitals that are members of the Chapter’s partnership can apply for certification. Those membership fees will eventually sustain the program.

AzAAP's President, Dr. Dale Guthrie also noted that through this program the Chapter and ADHS have identified two key areas for improvement in the state: the need for more pediatric resources devoted to mental health as well as disaster preparedness. The public-private partnership includes hospitals, physicians, nurses, emergency personnel, AzAAP and ADHS.

Visit www.AzAAP.org for more information.

About Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

The Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of over 900 primary care pediatricians, pediatric specialists, nurses and other pediatric healthcare providers dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

About Banner Ironwood Medical Center

Banner Ironwood Medical Center provides patient care to the San Tan Valley and Queen Creek communities, including Emergency services, intensive care, surgery, obstetrics and medical imaging. Banner Ironwood is part of Banner Health, a nonprofit healthcare system with 24 hospitals in seven states, and represents a significant long-term investment in medical excellence for the East Valley. For more information, visit www.BannerHealth.com/Ironwood.

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