

News Release

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Mercy Gilbert Receives Pediatric Emergency Certification

Dignity Health Mercy Gilbert Medical Center has received certification by the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AzAAP) as a Pediatric Prepared Emergency Care Emergency Department.

Although Mercy Gilbert has long provided care for pediatric patients in its Emergency Department, this accreditation from the AzAAP confirms the high quality pediatric emergency care the hospital provides and further complements its partnership with Phoenix Children's Hospital. Last year, Phoenix Children's opened a 22-bed inpatient pediatric unit at Mercy Gilbert, and since the unit's establishment, Mercy Gilbert has seen its pediatric volume double in the Emergency Department.

"Obtaining this certification shows our commitment to offering specialized and advanced emergency medical care to the youngest patients in our community," says Janet Shepard, director of Emergency Services at Mercy Gilbert and Chandler Regional Medical Centers. "In addition to the certification, Mercy Gilbert's emergency physicians and nurses have received specialized pediatric training to care for children with emergency medical needs."

Hospitals voluntarily apply for the AzAAP certification, which includes matching hospital capabilities and capacity to established guidelines through a self-assessment process and a site visit by a team of peer professionals.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics believes in access to optimal emergency care for all children," says Dr. Delphis Richardson, AzAAP's President. "To receive the Pediatric Prepared Emergency Care certification, the hospital's Emergency Department must pass a broad and in-depth review of pediatric care readiness that includes its equipment, staffing policies and procedures and analytics."

For more information about the pediatric services offered at Mercy Gilbert, please visit dignityhealth.org/mercygilbert.

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