

## **Regions Hospital receives first and only Level I Pediatric Trauma Center certification in Minnesota**

In June 2009, Regions Hospital received certification as the only Level I Pediatric Trauma Center in the Upper Midwest from the American College of Surgeons. Regions worked in collaboration with Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare in the application process and in development of clinical services that would fulfill the requirements of a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center. The development of these clinical services will provide pediatric patients in the region with the highest level of pediatric care in the region and seamless care delivery between the organizations.

Regions first received designation as a Level 1 Trauma Center for Adults in 1993. At the time, there was no specific designation for Level 1 Pediatric Trauma, but Regions had pediatric trauma capabilities. In 2007, the American College of Surgeons, updated guidelines to require separate certification for children under the age of 15 and hospitals interested in the pediatric designation are required to re-apply under the new standards.

Regions is now the only Level I Trauma Center for Adults and Pediatrics in the Upper Midwest and the first to be verified in Minnesota. Other Level I Adult Trauma Centers in the state include HCMC, North Memorial and St. Mary's in Rochester.

Legislation passed in 2009 makes the new designation as a Level I Pediatric Trauma center significant because the law requires ambulance services to transport major trauma patients from the scene to the highest state-designated trauma hospital within 30 minutes. An exception is patients with compromised airways who must be transported immediately to the nearest designated trauma hospital.

- Regions Hospital is the only Level I Pediatric Trauma Center certified by the American College of Surgeons in the Upper Midwest. There are only 32 certified pediatric trauma centers in the U.S. and only 18 other Level I Pediatric Trauma Centers. The next closest to Regions is in Milwaukee.
- As a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center, Regions has a specially trained team of healthcare providers, available 24/7 for critically injured children, especially moderate to severe trauma cases.

The partnership with Gillette provides access to clinical services that are vital to the initial stabilization and long-term clinical management of pediatric trauma patients. These services include:

- A Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
- Center for Pediatric Rehabilitation that is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) Gillette is one of only 3 accredited pediatric programs in the region.
- Access to pediatric specialists critical to the initial stabilization and long-term management of pediatric trauma patients:
  - o 3 full-time pediatric neurosurgeons
  - o 7 full-time pediatric orthopaedic surgeons (largest group in the Midwest)
  - o 5 full time pediatric rehabilitation specialists (largest group in the U.S.)
  - o Pediatric intensivist coverage (expanding to 24/7 coverage in August 2009)
- Being a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center is important because research shows that the time between sustaining an injury and receiving definitive care is the most important predictor of survival. This time is known as the "golden hour." Regions Level I pediatric certification and the partnership with Gillette assures that young patients will have faster access to all of the specialized trauma care they might need on one hospital campus.