



WHAT'S NEW

Breathing Easy

A generous grant from the Independent Pilots Association Foundation brings in a new respiratory system that helps patients breathe easy

Respiratory disorders are the primary reason kids come to Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland. And of our entire patient population, as many as half will need breathing assistance at some point in their stay—from day-old, 1-pound preemies to toddlers and teens. Fortunately for them, here at Children's, a highly trained team of specialists is available to care for them. With the team's help, and with new technologies at their disposal, both our patients and their families are breathing easier.

One of our patients, Briannah Brown, has Pompe disease, making it difficult to breathe on her own. With assistance and support from the Children's Hospital respiratory team, Briannah was able to leave the hospital. Help went with her in the form of a lightweight, less complex ventilator called the Trilogy.

"The Respironics Trilogy is wonderful," remarks Katie Sabato, MS, RRT, and Director of Respiratory Care Services at Children's. "Because it's small and weighs only about 11 pounds, it allows children and their families to be mobile. Mobility is important for any patient, but especially children, since they're still developing and growing." The Trilogy is also less complex than traditional ventilator systems—which is reassuring for many homebound families, Sabato adds.

The machine's ease and portability provides comfort to Briannah's mother, Hannah. Now Hannah is well-equipped, informed, and ready to take her daughter home after her daughter's lengthy hospital stay. "I feel like I have the support of the respiratory team," says Hannah, a busy mother of five, "and they've prepared me to care for Briannah in our own home. We're eager to get going and back to our family routine."

Director Sabato's experience and expertise got her elected as Chair of the



Melisa Gentry, RRT, monitors Briannah while she sleeps using the new, mobile Respironics Trilogy system. Briannah will be able to go home with this new, less complex, mobile ventilator system.

"Phillips, who makes the Trilogy, came to us for our feedback on the system before it was released," says Katie Sabato, MS, RRT, Children's Director of Respiratory Care Services. "Because we're known for the quality of respiratory services we provide to our community, we're seen as a resource within the industry."



Neonatal Pediatric Specialty Section for the American Association of Respiratory Care. Her recent pediatric asthma paper won an award from the American Respiratory Care Foundation; it was completed with help from her Children's respiratory care team members. Many respiratory care staff regularly present their research findings at conventions and in publications. Even respiratory equipment and life support manufacturers look to Children's Hospital respiratory care team for feedback and guidance regarding their products and their performance.

"Because of the expertise here at Children's," says Sabato, "Phillips, who makes the Trilogy, came to us for our input on the system before it was released. The average tenure of our respiratory therapists is about 15 years, and many on staff have as much as 30 years' experience. Because we're known for the quality of respiratory services we provide to our community, we're seen as a resource within the industry."

Children's is often recognized in the healthcare industry for the quality care we provide. Most important, however, is confirmation of that care from both our patients and their families.

One such grateful family member, pilot Myles Ericson, was deeply moved by the compassionate care his son and other kids received at Children's Hospital. He wanted to do something to help the hospital continue its mission to serve children, so Myles recommended Children's for a grant from his organization, the Independent Pilots Association (IPA) Foundation. In 2011, we were awarded a \$20,000 grant to purchase a Trilogy.

Children's Hospital thanks the Independent Pilots Association Foundation and Myles Ericson for their generosity.