

Immediate Release

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Christiana Care Health System Delivers Peace of Mind with NICU “Babycams”

(WILMINGTON, Del. – Oct. 16, 2014) – When Stephanie and Michael Maguigan’s son Noah came into the world six weeks early, Stephanie was able to hold him for only a moment before he was whisked off to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at Christiana Hospital for highly specialized care. Because of the medication she was prescribed to stabilize her blood pressure, Stephanie was confined to her hospital bed over the next two days and couldn’t visit her newborn. The first-time parents were ecstatic to learn that the NICVIEW camera system—installed just a few weeks before their son’s birth—would allow them to watch baby Noah 24/7 through a live video feed during his stay in the NICU.

Christiana Care Health System is the first in Delaware and only the 19th in the U.S. to install the NICVIEW camera system in its NICU. This progressive technology enables the loved ones of newborns receiving care in the NICU to view the baby at any time, day or night, through a private and secure video stream from any web-enabled device.

“The cameras made all the difference in the world,” said Michael Maguigan. “There is so much anxiety when you have a child in the NICU. To be able to look in on Noah at any moment using the NICVIEW camera relieved the anxiety. The opportunity for family across the globe to see our son was wonderful for all of us.”

Following Stephanie’s release from the hospital, the Maguigans would visit Noah in the NICU every day. When they couldn’t be there, they would stay close through to Noah through virtual visits on their cell phones, laptop and desktop computer.

The NICVIEW Camera System is fully HIPAA compliant, and images are never recorded or stored. User names and passwords are issued by the hospital to only the parents, who can choose to share access with loved ones. The private and secure web-based video stream can be accessed 24/7 through any internet-enabled device.

“The babycams enable parents to bond with their babies even when they cannot be by their side,” said David A. Paul, M.D., chair of Pediatrics. “Being able to provide this technology takes our patient- and family-centered approach to the care of babies and their parents to an even greater level.”

Sixty of a total of 72 cameras have been installed at each individual bassinet in the NICU at Christiana Hospital. The additional 12 babycams will be installed on the pediatrics floor to accommodate the loved ones of babies who have been discharged from the NICU but still require a longer hospital stay. The average stay for a baby needing NICU care is 17 days, and can run from 48 hours to eight months.

At Christiana Hospital to date, 17,000 babycam logins have been recorded from 31 U.S. states and eight countries including Aruba, India, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines and Singapore. “And we expect those numbers to keep on climbing,” said Karen Haritakis, MSN, RN, CNML, clinical operations director of the NICU and Pediatrics at Christiana Hospital.

The babycam initiative is made possible through the generous support of nearly 200 friends and donors, including many children who held letter-writing campaigns, car washes, a karate “kick-a-thon,” and other fundraisers. In total, more than \$182,000 was raised in just a few months, surpassing the campaign’s goal of \$147,000. The surplus is earmarked for related staff training.

Christiana Hospital is the only high-risk delivering hospital in Delaware offering Level III neonatal intensive care. Approximately 1,200 newborns receive treatment at Christiana Hospital each year, representing one of the highest-volume NICUs in the nation.

About Christiana Care Health System

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country’s largest health care providers, ranking as the 22nd leading hospital in the nation and 12th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Thomas Jefferson Medical College, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women’s health services. Christiana Care is home to Delaware’s only Level I trauma center, the highest capability center and the only one of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care also features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers the highest level of non-surgical care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds, a home health care service, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services, a network of primary care physicians and an extensive range of outpatient services.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit www.christianacare.org/howeare.

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