

KEVIN BRINKMANN RECOGNIZED FOR STATE-WIDE EFFORTS TO SAVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NASHVILLE, TN December 9, 2009 Tennessee Emergency Medical Services for Children Foundation (TN EMSC) has selected Kevin Brinkmann, MD as this year's recipient of the Joseph Weinberg, MD Leadership Award. This award recognizes his dedication of long-standing service to the life saving needs of the children of Tennessee and support of the principles of the national Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

Dr. Brinkmann was appointed a member of the Department of Health, Committee on Pediatric Emergency Care (CoPEC) in 2005. CoPEC is an advisory committee to the Board of Healthcare Facilities and the state Emergency Medical Services Board, which recommends standards for quality care of critically ill and injured children in Tennessee. Members of this committee serve voluntarily as a public service without compensation.

As part of his duties, Dr. Brinkmann served as a member of the Standards Committee, and subsequently, became Chairman of that committee. Working with his colleagues, he coordinated and edited a comprehensive revision of the rules and regulations which provide the guidelines for the preparedness to management pediatric emergencies for all hospitals and ambulance services in Tennessee. The original guidelines had been drafted by CoPEC and accepted by the Tennessee Board of Licensing of Healthcare Facilities in 1998. The revision drew upon the expertise of representatives from the four children's hospitals in the state, the Tennessee Hospital Association, the Tennessee Ambulance Services Association, the Rural Health Association of Tennessee, the state Parent-Teacher Association, the Tennessee Department of Health, and the Emergency Medical Services Board, as well as many other individuals. Organizing, analyzing and formulating the input from these various sources and insuring that the results were in agreement with all nationally recognized standards was a process that took 18 months to complete and produced a 100 page document.

The Standards Committee, under Dr. Brinkmann's leadership, is working on developing a standardized hospital transfer agreement for pediatrics. Since all hospitals in Tennessee do not have the capabilities to provide highly complex medical and surgical services for rare pediatric conditions and life-threatening illness, hospitals must have agreements in place for transferring these patients to hospitals which provide these specialty services. The administrative forms and the requirements for transfer of medical information had not been uniform across the state, so that, referring hospitals had a separate form and transfer data requirements for each specialty hospital with which they had a transfer agreement. Dr. Brinkmann and the Standards Committee of CoPEC is bringing together the medical, administrative, and legal counsel of the hospital systems, and together with the Tennessee Hospital Association, developing a uniform transfer form for pediatrics for use across the state.

For these and other leading efforts to promote the best quality care of critically ill and injured children in Tennessee, Dr. Brinkmann was awarded the TN EMSC Joseph Weinberg, MD Leadership Award.

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Dr. Brinkmann is a pediatric critical care specialist at East Tennessee Children's Hospital in Knoxville where he has been in practice since 2004. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and his medical degree from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. He completed a residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in pediatric critical care at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis.