SIMULATION CENTER
MEDIA ADVISORY

What: **Health care professionals at CLINIC/HOSPITAL NAME undergo simulation training to prepare for medical emergencies in infants and children**

When: **DATE(S)**

Where: **HOSPITAL/CLINIC**

Contact: **MAIN CONTACT FROM HOSPITAL, PHONE NUMBER**

Simulation is one of the newest techniques available to help health care professionals be prepared for medical emergencies.

The training is conducted by Twin Cities-based Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota in its Mobile Simulation Center, the first of its kind in the nation to focus solely on preparing physicians and nurses for life-threatening conditions that impact children.

During simulations, multidisciplinary teams come together to practice critical events that are made highly realistic by simulation specialists using computerized manikins and other techniques. For example, teams may practice scenarios in which a child is brought to an emergency room experiencing severe breathing difficulties, or when a newborn needs resuscitation.

A debriefing follows the event, during which participants identify what went well and where improvements in team performance can be made. A strong emphasis is placed on how best to work together as a team.

"We're so happy to work shoulder-to-shoulder with our colleagues and bring this leading-edge training to hospitals throughout the region. Simulation training helps provide tools to respond effectively to a pediatric emergency," said Karen Mathias, an Advanced Practice Nurse, and Director of Children's simulation program. "Simulation is a way to stay ready for the unexpected – the next child that rolls through the doors of the ER, or the next baby born with breathing difficulty. It's very much a dress rehearsal for situations that may not occur often, but eventually arise in any health care setting."

Mathias said that simulation training in health care grew out of the approach taken by the aviation industry, which routinely uses simulation to help ensure that pilots and others can practice scenarios that can arise. Simulation training is often noted as one of the main reasons for the overall safety of the U.S. aviation industry.

“It makes a lot of sense to take the lessons learned in aviation through simulation training and apply them to medical care," she said.