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Golisano Children's Hospital Recognized as Asthma-Friendly Hospital
Hospital Met Specific Criteria that Improves Care and Outcomes

(Fort Myers, Fla. – May 23, 2018) --- Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida is the newest hospital and the fourth in the state to be designated an Asthma-Friendly Hospital by the Florida Asthma Coalition. This state-wide award recognizes hospitals that create a safe and healthy environment for patients with asthma.

The hospital had to meet specific criteria that were designed to improve asthma care and outcomes for patients while reducing emergency department visits and hospitalizations. The five criterion include:

- Professional development for hospital nurses and respiratory therapists on asthma management
- Professional development for hospital physicians on asthma management
- Asthma action plan
- Self-management education
- Multi-component home-based asthma education

Hospital admissions due to asthma at Golisano Children's Hospital have been declining for the past several years. In 2014, there were 611 children with asthma admitted to the hospital; that number significantly declined to 369 admissions in fiscal year 2017. Readmission rates dropped to nearly half in the same period—from 5.7% in 2014 to 2.8% in 2017. The decreases are a direct result of an asthma prevention program that helps patients and families better understand the disease, the triggers and how to manage medications.

Lee Health already helped day care centers and school districts throughout Southwest Florida work toward Asthma-Friendly designation.

Marked by episodes of coughing, wheezing, chest tightness and breathlessness, asthma is common among children. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that, on average in a classroom of 30 children, about four are likely to have asthma. It is important for children to understand what triggers an attack and how to take their medications and treat their asthma.

To learn more about the Asthma-Friendly recognition, visit <https://tinyurl.com/GCHasthma>. If you have specific questions about asthma education opportunities for children and adults, call Teresa Summe at 239-343-1043.

About Golisano Children's Hospital

Established in 1994, Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida has been named a "Top Hospital" by The Leapfrog Group for the past two years. It is the only recognized children's hospital between Tampa and Miami. Lee Health opened the new 128-bed Golisano Children's Hospital in May 2017, relocating the children's hospital from the adjacent HealthPark Medical Center. It includes comprehensive pediatric services including a 24-hour pediatric emergency department, hematology-oncology unit, milk lab, Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center, and Level II and Level III NICU with 64 private rooms. For more information, visit GolisanoChildrensSWFL.org