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HealthPark Medical Center Earns “Baby-Friendly” Designation

Prestigious recognition demonstrates a strong commitment to breastfeeding for new mothers and their babies

(Fort Myers, Fla. – Oct. 30, 2018) --- Expectant parents now have another reason to choose HealthPark Medical Center to deliver their babies.

The south Lee County hospital recently received a prestigious “Baby-Friendly” designation, an international recognition from Baby-Friendly USA when the hospital was named a Designated Baby-Friendly birth facility. HealthPark Medical Center joins Cape Coral Hospital and Gulf Coast Medical Center as the third Lee Health hospital to earn this title.

“The hospital experience is critical for mothers who intend to breastfeed and earning a Baby-Friendly designation is validation for the exceptional work our team does to support breastfeeding moms and babies. We must support new mothers immediately after birth to help them establish breastfeeding early. This gives infants the best and healthiest start in life,” said Carol Lawrence, Supervisor, Perinatal Practice, Education, Research, and Lactation at HealthPark Medical Center.

Baby-Friendly USA, Inc. is the United States authority for the implementation of the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI), a global program sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The initiative encourages and recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that offer an optimal level of care for breastfeeding mothers and their babies. Based on the Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, this prestigious international award recognizes birth facilities that offer breastfeeding mothers the information, confidence and skills they need to initiate and continue breastfeeding their babies successfully.

There are more than 20,000 designated Baby-Friendly hospitals and birth centers worldwide. Currently, there are 539 active Baby-Friendly hospitals and birth centers in the United States.

The “Baby-Friendly” re-designation is given after a rigorous on-site survey is completed. The award is maintained by continuing to practice the Ten Steps as demonstrated by quality processes.

To learn more about the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, visit www.babyfriendlyusa.org.

About Lee Health

Since the opening of the first hospital in 1916, Lee Health has been a health care leader in Southwest Florida, constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community. A non-profit, integrated health care services organization, Lee Health is committed to the well-being of every individual served, focused on healthy living and maintaining good health. Staffed by caring people, inspiring health, services are conveniently located throughout the community in four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals, outpatient centers, walk-in medical centers, primary care and specialty physician practices and other services across the continuum of care. Formerly known as Lee Memorial Health System, the organization began its second century of service with a new name in 2016. Learn more at www.LeeHealth.org.