

# **Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare Ranks as one of Nation's Top Orthopaedic Programs in U.S. News Media Group's America's Best Children's Hospitals**

[Saint Paul, Minn.] – **June 18, 2009** – Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare has been ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation for orthopaedics in U.S. News Media Group's 2009 edition of *America's Best Children's Hospitals*, published online at [www.usnews.com/childrenshospitals](http://www.usnews.com/childrenshospitals) and featured in the August issue of *U.S. News & World Report*, available on newsstands starting July 21.

The 2009 America's Best Children's Hospitals are ranked in cancer, diabetes and endocrine disorders, digestive disorders, heart and heart surgery, kidney disorders, neonatal care, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopaedics, respiratory disorders, and urology.

“While they might be a small percentage of all hospital patients, a large number of children every year need high-quality hospital care,” said Health Rankings Editor Avery Comarow. “The objective of the Best Children's Hospitals rankings is to help children with uniquely challenging medical needs, and for these special patients, it is essential they seek treatment at pediatric facilities with deep expertise. With this year's rankings, we're providing important information on the best of the best.”

This is the first year the publication has evaluated specialty hospitals, like Gillette in their review.

“We were excited to be asked to participate and reviewed alongside other excellent children's hospitals,” said Margaret Perryman, President and CEO of Gillette. “Specialty hospitals are, by definition, unique and different from acute care hospitals. For instance, we have always been known for our orthopaedic expertise. In fact, when the hospital first began caring for children with disabilities 112 years ago, Dr. Gillette himself was an orthopaedic surgeon. Today, we have one of the highest concentrations of pediatric orthopaedic surgeons in the country. While our formal recognition in this survey was in the area of orthopaedics, the recognition is really a reflection of the work our entire team of specialists.”

The methodology behind this year's rankings weighed a three-part blend of reputation, outcome, and care-related measures such as nursing care, advanced technology, credentialing, and other factors. The hospitals were judged based on a combination of opinions from pediatric specialists about the hospitals they would recommend for the sickest children and data gathered in a 65-page survey covering important medical information ranging from surgical death rates to whether pediatric anesthesiologists and other sub specialists are on the staff. A detailed description of the methodology can be found at [www.usnews.com/childrenshospitals](http://www.usnews.com/childrenshospitals).

Ranking-eligible facilities were largely drawn from two membership categories of the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions (NACHRI): freestanding children's hospitals, or “hospitals within a hospital” (large, multidisciplinary pediatric departments within a medical center). Several non-NACHRI members were added because of known expertise or at the recommendation of experts. Of the 160 children's hospitals invited to complete the 65-page survey, 98 responded. The survey was created and administered by RTI International, the same respected research organization that collects the data and oversees the methodology behind the adult Best Hospitals rankings.

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About Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare

Gillette, an independent, not-for-profit hospital and clinics, is internationally recognized for its work in the diagnosis and treatment of children and young adults who have disabilities or complex medical needs, such as cerebral palsy, complex orthopaedic conditions, craniofacial anomalies, neurological conditions, brain and spinal-cord injuries, spina bifida and juvenile arthritis.

Since 1897, Gillette has been at the forefront of medical treatment, technology, education and research for children with disabilities. Gillette's mission is to help children, adults and their families improve their health, achieve greater well-being, and enjoy life.

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