OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois receives national recognition for excellence in pediatric sedation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(July 22, 2026 | Peoria, Illinois) – OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois has been named a Center of Excellence in Pediatric Sedation by the Society for Pediatric Sedation.

The designation recognizes pediatric sedation programs across the country that are committed to providing safe, effective procedural sedation through best practices in a patient- and family-centered environment. OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois will carry this designation through 2030 and is one of just 10 hospitals nationwide to receive the recognition in this cycle.

"This national recognition reflects the outstanding work of this team and places our program alongside some of the most respected hospitals in the country in providing safe, high-quality pediatric sedation care," said Nadia Shaikh, MD, medical director of pediatric sedation at OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois. "Most importantly it reflects our continued commitment to excellence, innovation and compassionate care for every child and family we serve."

Pediatric sedation helps children stay calm and comfortable during medical procedures like blood draws, imaging exams, emergency care and other diagnostic and interventional procedures. The pediatric sedation team includes specially trained physicians, nurses, child life specialists and other caregivers dedicated to providing safe, family-centered care.

"What makes this unit truly special is the expertise and teamwork behind it," Dr. Shaikh added. "Our physicians, nurses, child life specialists and support staff work together to create a calm and reassuring experience for children and families during what can often be stressful moments. This focus on family-centered care helps reduce anxiety and improves the overall experience for patients and caregivers alike."

To learn more about how the pediatric sedation team is making a difference in the lives of children across the country, check out the newest episode of Meg's Marvels, a video series with Meg Zakrzewski, president of OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois.

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About OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois:
Located in Peoria, OSF HealthCare Children's Hospital of Illinois is the third largest pediatric hospital in Illinois and the most comprehensive hospital for kids downstate. With 136 beds and more than 140 pediatric subspecialists, OSF Children's Hospital cares for more children in Illinois than any hospital outside of Chicago. Formally established as a pediatric hospital within the walls of OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in 1990, OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois has more than 7,000 inpatient admissions, 75,000 outpatient specialty visits, 2,400 newborn deliveries, and 18,000 emergency department visits each year. Learn more by visiting **childrenshospitalofillinois.org.**