

Spreading the News of Expert Pediatric Burn Care

Debbie Harrell, RN, MSN, has been working as the director of professional relations at Shriners Hospitals for Children® — Cincinnati since July of 2009, and she is ecstatic about the success thus far.

More than 15 patients have been referred to the Cincinnati hospital as a direct result of her work. “To know that we are helping a family and child receive expert burn care, is the most rewarding aspect of my job,” said Harrell. “My job is to get out there and tell professionals about the services we offer. I know we provide the best pediatric burn care out there, so it’s pretty easy for me to share that message.”

With more than 25 years of experience in pediatric burn care, Harrell has the know-how to understand the needs of professionals and families when it comes to transferring a patient to Cincinnati. She frequently travels the country, visiting small, rural hospitals that are less likely to have heard of our services. “These smaller hospitals are so appreciative to know they have options to share with families,” said Harrell.

Harrell is also reaching out to urban hospitals that may already have a burn unit but not pediatric services. “Children are not little adults,” said Harrell. “Besides the critical care issues that come along with treating a pediatric burn patient, there are many support issues that we provide well beyond a traditional hospital, which are absolutely essential when caring for a child.”

Physicians praise the care provided at Shriners Hospitals for Children®. “The medical community knows that the Cincinnati hospital is the best place to send burns,” said Chris Lewis, M.D., a Cincinnati-based family practitioner. “I know that my patients will get the highest quality burn care from the most caring people around.”

Transport Services

Our Transport Team is now under the supervision of Mark Washam, RRT, RN, a respiratory therapist and nurse who has worked at the hospital for more than 22 years. “We want the referring hospital to make one phone call to us and we’ll take care of the rest,” said Washam. “We’re using a combination of our internal team and partners such as the ambulance services and air medical units to transport patients needing immediate transfer.”

For information on transportation or the referral process:



**In an emergency, call direct to our acute care unit
(866) 947-7840**

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Outpatient & non-burn services
(513) 872-6240

Inpatient burn rehabilitative services
(513) 872-6268



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