



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Maine Medical Center and The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital Honored for Hepatitis B Vaccine Birth Dose Rate**

PORTLAND, Maine — Maine Medical Center and The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital with the assistance of MaineHealth's Child Health Program have been recognized by the Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) for achieving one of the highest reported rates in the state for its work to protect newborns from hepatitis B virus infection.

Maine Medical Center and The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital are the newest entry into IAC's Birth Dose Honor Roll ([www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose](http://www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose)), which recognizes hospitals and birthing centers that have attained high coverage levels for administering the hepatitis B vaccine at birth. Maine Medical Center and The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital immunized 90% of babies from August 1, 2015 to September 1, 2016 and took additional steps to prevent perinatal transmission of hepatitis B.

The national standard of care to prevent hepatitis B virus infection in babies is to administer hepatitis B vaccine to all newborns before they leave the hospital or birthing center. This standard is being adopted by centers of healthcare excellence nationwide as a safety net to protect newborns from a wide range of medical errors that lead to babies being unprotected from perinatal hepatitis B infection.

“Hospitals and birthing centers have a responsibility to protect babies from life-threatening hepatitis B infection,” said Deborah Wexler, MD, executive director and founder of IAC. “Maine Medical Center and The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital commitment to the best practice of hepatitis B vaccination at birth has shown them to be a leader in preventing the transmission of the hepatitis B virus.”

Maine Medical Center and The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital join 13 other Maine hospitals on the honor roll and is one of two Maine hospitals for 2016. “We are very proud of this accomplishment,” said David Cox, M.D., newborn hospitalist. “Several groups of newborn care providers including Labor and Delivery, Mother/Baby, NICU, Continuing Care Nursery, BBCH, Pediatric Short Stay Units, MaineHealth Child Health Program, and patient families contributed to the success of improving the overall well-being of Maine children and to ensure the long-term health of our communities.”

### **About Maine Medical Center**

Maine Medical Center (MMC), recognized as the number-one ranked hospital in Maine by *U.S. News and World Report for 2016-2017*, is a complete health care resource for the people of Greater Portland and the entire state, as well as northern New England. Incorporated in 1864, MMC is the state’s largest medical center, licensed for 637 beds and employing nearly 6,500 people. MMC's unique role as both a community hospital and a referral center requires an unparalleled depth and breadth of services, including an active educational program and a world-class biomedical research center. As a nonprofit institution, Maine Medical Center provides nearly 23 percent of all the charity care delivered in Maine. MMC is a member of the MaineHealth system, a growing family of health care services in northern New England. For more information, visit [www.mmc.org](http://www.mmc.org).

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