

# Ohio's children's hospitals work together to reduce preventable cardiac and pulmonary arrests by more than 46%

## Working Together – Saving Children's Lives

The Ohio Children's Hospital Association's Quality Improvement Collaborative  
*Preventing Cardiac and Respiratory Arrests Project*



In a first-of-its-kind effort in the nation to save children's lives by improving quality in a meaningful, measureable way, the six members of **the Ohio Children's Hospital Association** created the **Quality Improvement Collaborative** in 2006 with the goal of promoting improved quality of care at children's hospitals.

In its first project, the Collaborative focused on reducing preventable codes occurring outside of the neonatal and pediatric Intensive Care Units. In medical terminology, a "code" is an event where the patient's breathing or heart stops, and a team of providers rushes to the scene to try to revive the patient. Other terms for "code" are cardiac arrest or respiratory arrest.

As a result of its efforts, the Collaborative identified a medical protocol called a Rapid Response Team that, when implemented, **reduced incidences of preventable codes by more than 46 percent** in the first two years of the project.

In addition to the tangible achievement of preventing life-threatening situations for patients, the Collaborative's efforts also realized the following benefits:

- Increased patient satisfaction;
- Improved cooperative efforts, internal communication and accountability among hospital staff; and
- Identification of areas to improve the Rapid Response Team model moving forward.

And, this is only the beginning of the Collaborative's efforts, as Ohio's children's hospitals continue to work together to identify ways to improve the quality of care for the state's youngest patients.



*To view a video about the Collaborative's Preventing Cardiac and Respiratory Arrests project and read about children who have been impacted by the work, please visit our Web site at [www.ohiochildrenshospitals.org](http://www.ohiochildrenshospitals.org).*