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NATIONAL SAFE SLEEP HOSPITAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM RECOGNIZES ELLIOT HOSPITAL AS FIRST IN STATE TO RECEIVE BRONZE DESIGNATION

MANCHESTER, NH: Elliot Hospital was recently recognized by the [National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program](#) as a Bronze Level Hospital for its commitment to best practices and education on infant safe sleep. Elliot Hospital is the first hospital in NH to receive this title.

The National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program was created by [Cribs for Kids®](#), a Pittsburgh-based organization dedicated to preventing infant, sleep-related deaths due to accidental suffocation. In addition to being Cribs for Kids® partners, Elliot Hospital was recognized for following the safe sleep guidelines recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and providing training programs for parents, staff and the community.

“Sleep-Related Death (SRD) results in the loss of more than 3,500 infants every year in the U.S.,” said Michael H. Goodstein, M.D., neonatologist and medical director of research at Cribs for Kids®. “We know that consistent education can have a profound effect on infant mortality, and this program is designed to encourage safe sleep education and to recognize those hospitals that are taking an active role in reducing these preventable deaths.” This program is well-aligned with the Maternal Child Health Bureau's vision of reducing infant mortality through the promotion of infant sleep safety as outlined in *Infant Mortality CoIN Initiative*. Thirty-six states have designated SIDS/SUID/SRD as their emphasis to reduce infant mortality.

According to Judith A. Bannon, Executive Director and Founder for Cribs for Kids®, “The program kicked off in June of 2015 in Pittsburgh, PA, home of the Cribs for Kids® national headquarters. Sixteen states and Quebec Canada are represented among the 38 certified hospitals which have achieved the ‘Gold Champion’ status, or are working their way toward it. This will have a profound effect on the number of babies’ lives that will be saved.”

For more information on the Cribs for Kids® National Safe Sleep Hospital Certification program visit <http://www.cribsforkids.org/safesleephospitalcertification/>.

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