

Let's hear it for hospitalists

24-hour attention means pediatric patients are always in good hands

Hospitalists are physicians whose primary focus is the general medical care of hospitalized patients, and demand for this specialty is growing. Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent can count itself ahead of the trend since recruiting David Zipes, M.D., in 1998, making him the first pediatric hospitalist in Indiana.

Dr. Zipes is now one of a team of 11 pediatric hospitalists at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent who care for patients 24/7, helping them to recuperate as quickly as possible. Research has shown hospitalists can improve clinical outcomes and decrease the length of hospital stays.

Dr. Zipes' excellence in the field hasn't gone unnoticed: In April, he received the 2008 Society of Hospital Medicine Award for Outstanding Service in Hospital Medicine.

As a hospitalist, Dr. Zipes says one of his biggest roles is taking care of otherwise healthy children who are suffering from problems such as asthma, seizures, stomach complaints and bacterial infections, as well as children with more complicated health conditions like cerebral palsy, heart disease and Crohn's disease. He also works closely with surgeons, cardiologists, GI doctors and other physicians to help manage their patients. In a typical day, he says he manages children's medications, performs diagnostic testing and procedures and talks with both patients and their parents.

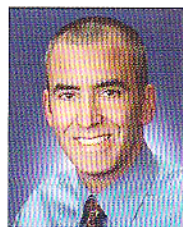
There are at least two hospitalists on duty at all times at the hospital. "We're in the hospital all the time so we can respond to emergencies, diagnostic studies and findings that come up," explains Dr. Zipes. "And we can talk to patients and their families at any time and send them home as soon as they're ready."

The hospitalist's job isn't limited to the time a child is in the hospital. Dr. Zipes will communicate with primary care physicians before and after his patients' stays as part of the transitional care his specialty can provide.

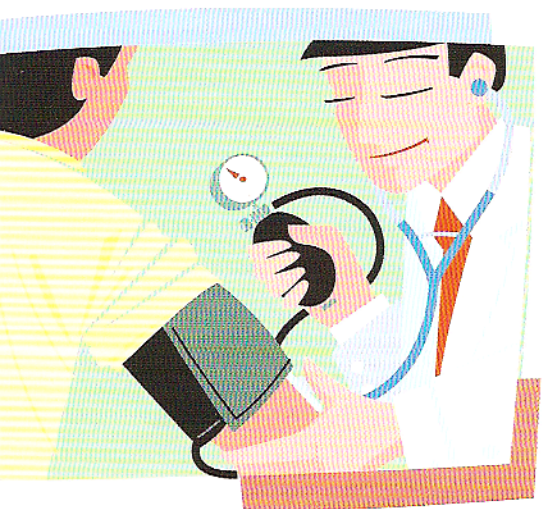
"Hospitalists know how to care for complex issues in children," says Joanne Hilden, M.D., medical director of Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent. "Their 24-hour presence means if a child's condition worsens, he or she will get

instant attention, which improves outcomes and decreases health care costs."

Dr. Zipes draws much satisfaction from his practice. "There's immense job pleasure in seeing sick kids get better and easing their parents' stress," he says. ■



David Zipes, M.D., pediatric hospitalist, Peyton Manning Children's Hospital



At your service

For more information about pediatric hospitalists at Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent, call (317) 338-8861.