

**For Release:**

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## Children's Hospital Opens New Specialty Pediatric Clinic

Omaha, NE – Children's Hospital has opened a new Specialty Pediatric Clinic in Lincoln. Located at 86<sup>th</sup> and Pioneers Boulevard, the free-standing, single story building offers a range of pediatric specialty care.

“We're excited to have this opportunity to enhance the services offered by Children's Hospital to families in the capital city and greater Nebraska,” said Vanessa Walls, vice president of ambulatory care at Children's Hospital. “Our pediatric specialists currently serve more than 1,000 children through outpatient visits in Lincoln. This is a significant number and we believe our new space will prove even more welcoming and convenient for families.”

While the Children's Specialty Pediatric Clinic will focus on providing multidisciplinary care for children of all ages, it is not the same as a general pediatrician or family physician's office. Specialty care, as offered by Children's, provides expertise in specific areas of pediatric medicine. Specialties represented at the Lincoln clinic include cardiology, hematology and oncology, neurology, respiratory medicine, endocrinology, gastroenterology, rheumatology, orthopedics, neurosurgery and pediatric surgery.

“The children who come to see us may be referred by their primary care physician or another specialist,” explained Mark Wilson, M.D., director of respiratory medicine at Children's Hospital. “Our patients, for instance, might have persistent or poorly

controlled symptoms such as apnea, congestion, snoring, coughing, wheezing or problems exercising.”

The new clinic is outfitted with diagnostic equipment including x-ray, pulmonary function, airway endoscopy, echocardiography (echo) and electrocardiogram (ECG) for the heart. Families will also be able to have blood drawn for testing, helping them to avoid a separate office visit. Young patients will enjoy child-friendly features including bright colors and pictures, toys, games, and even television available in some clinic rooms.

“We have created an environment which incorporates elements to engage children and to divert their attention away from the fact that they’re seeing the doctor. We want them to have the best experience with the least amount of anxiety as possible,” said Walls.

In addition to the Specialty Pediatric Clinic, the new building will also house a satellite office for Children’s Home Healthcare. This service will provide medical supplies such as nebulizers, apnea monitors and oxygen to patients in Lincoln and surrounding areas. Children’s has previously offered limited home services in the city.

The Specialty Pediatric Clinic opened to patients on March 17