

## Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Heliport Fact Sheet

Children's Memorial Hospital is seeking final approval from the Illinois Department of Transportation to operate a rooftop heliport at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, which is currently under construction at 225 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, on Northwestern University's medical campus in the Streeterville neighborhood.

Children's Memorial  
Foundation

Children's Memorial  
Medical Group

Children's Memorial  
Research Center

Pediatric Faculty  
Foundation

### Essential to Mission

- Children's Memorial treats the **most critically ill and injured children** from across Illinois. The heliport is an essential part our ability to fulfill our mission of caring for the region's children.
- Our **primary concern is safety** for the patient, transport team, pilot, flight crew and everyone on the ground.
- For more than 20 years, Children's Memorial has safely operated a heliport at our Lincoln Park hospital.
- The most common diagnoses of children transported by helicopter are **seizures, respiratory distress, head injuries and trauma**.
- Doctors have concluded that **using an off-site heliport could result in serious harm** to the child being transported because of the additional time and physical movement of the medically fragile child.
- Children's Memorial has received more than **29,000 letters of support** for the new hospital and lifesaving heliport, including letters from hospitals who send us children via helicopter and children's hospitals around the country.



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of  
Northwestern University's  
Feinberg School of Medicine

### Limited Usage

- The heliport will be **used to receive critically ill and injured children** who cannot be transported by ground transportation without threatening the life or condition of the patient, and for organ transplantation that is time-critical.
- Heliport transports to the future rooftop heliport will be used for pediatric treatment of **Children's Memorial patients only**.
- Annually, an average of **73 children** who are seriously ill or injured and 5 organs for life-saving transplant are transported by helicopter to our Lincoln Park location.
- Pilots **only fly if** wind and weather **conditions are safe**.
- Children will only be brought from other hospitals – **not from the scene of accidents**.
- **Quarterly reports documenting each transport** will be shared with the community as provided to our Lincoln Park neighbors now.

## Studies and Technology

- Heliport planning and design included **extensive study by a team of top helicopter and wind experts** who have consulted on heliport projects worldwide.
- Wind studies conducted by RWDI, the international leader in this field, are the **most comprehensive wind studies** ever conducted by a hospital heliport applicant in Illinois.
- An automated weather observation system (AWOS 3) will be on the heliport **to share wind and weather conditions with pilots before they leave and while they are in –flight.**
- Visit [www.childrensmemorial.org/heliport](http://www.childrensmemorial.org/heliport) to read the Heliport Safety Plan submitted to the City of Chicago as part of the hospital's Planned Development Amendment.

## Approvals

- After more than a year of planning, in late 2007 and early 2008, the **City's Plan Commission, Zoning Committee and full City Council approved** plans to construct Lurie Children's, including the building of a rooftop heliport.
- After its review, the **Federal Aviation Administration concluded that heliport operations could be conducted safely** at the heliport in August 2008.
- The **Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)**, after eight months of review by internal and external experts, **issued its preliminary approval** of our heliport application in April 2009. At the request of the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents, IDOT held a public hearing in July 2009. IDOT is now reviewing all information from the public hearing and has posted all transcripts and documents on its web site.

A new hospital facility, including the heliport, is critical for Children's Memorial Hospital to strengthen and further our mission to provide world-class, specialty care for the children we serve throughout the City, region and country. For further information or to share your support, go to [www.childrensmemorial.org/heliport](http://www.childrensmemorial.org/heliport). Thank you.