

**TESTIMONY OF  
Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital  
Submitted to the  
Public Health Committee  
Friday, March 6, 2009**

**HB 6599, An Act Concerning Patient Safety**

Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital (YNHCH) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of amending HB 6599 to include a new section regarding inter-hospital Neonatal and Pediatric Specialty Care Transport (see reverse side). As one of the State's two children's hospitals, YNHCH has a robust transport service which safely performs procedures in children that are more technically demanding than in adults. The two children's hospitals provide the highest level of newborn intensive care; the only full-service pediatric intensive care unit; the only Level 1 trauma care; and provide more than 90% of all high acuity specialty services (cardiac surgery, neurosurgery and oncology.)

Yale-New Haven has safely operated neonatal and pediatric intra-hospital transport programs for more than 25 years. YNHCH transport teams include: Transport RN, APRN or fellow; Newborn Special Care or Pediatric Intensive Care RNs that have been specially trained to participate in transport; Respiratory Therapists (as needed), as well as telephone supervision by an attending neonatologist or intensivist (MDs).

Last year, our highly trained clinical teams safely transported over 400 newborns and children. Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital's Newborn Special Care Team transported 206 newborns between 28 hospitals in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and Pennsylvania. Newborns are most commonly transferred for extreme prematurity, cardio-pulmonary failure and congenital abnormalities. YNHCH's Pediatric Intensive Care Team transported 208 children between 24 hospitals in Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York. Children were most commonly transferred for Level 1 trauma, respiratory failure, shock and seizures (neurological disorders).

This critically important service requires the availability of rapidly responding teams of qualified caregivers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our teams capably manage a wide range of life-threatening conditions and perform life-saving procedures including:

- Endotracheal intubation;
- Vascular access;
- Mechanical ventilation; and
- Tube thoracostomy.

Reliable service requires ground transportation and staff that are adequately trained, supervised and available. We passionately urge your support of adding the inter-hospital Neonatal and Pediatric Specialty Care Transport section to HB 6599 and your support of the bill throughout the legislative process.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Section 19-175 of the General Statutes is amended by adding subsection (25) as follows (effective upon passage):*

*(25) "Neonatal and Pediatric Specialty Care Transport" means the inter facility transport between licensed hospitals of critically injured or ill neonates, infants or children by at least a basic level ambulance that meets the requirements of the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, including medically necessary supplies and services, at a level of service beyond the scope of the EMT-Paramedic. Specialty care transport is necessary when the patient condition requires ongoing care that must be furnished by one or more certified or licensed health professionals in the appropriate specialty care area of neonatology or pediatrics. The ambulance shall meet the requirements of a basic level ambulance as outlined in the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and be supplemented by at least a licensed registered nurse or licensed mid-level practitioner currently trained and certified in Pediatric Advanced Life Support pursuant to American Heart Association standards or Neonatal Resuscitation pursuant to the American Academy of Pediatrics standards, as appropriate based on the patient's condition.*