



Multi-State Pulse Oximetry Study Lead by Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children at P/SL

- Dr. Del Eichorst and her team will begin the study in the next couple of months
- Study will include 200 newborns (well infants)
- New Mexico and Utah are also involved
- Goal is to have the outcomes and new protocols set up for Pulse Oximetry Testing by the end of 2012
- Study will help create “normal values” for newborns at higher altitudes
- They will use the current values as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics as the basis for the study. Physicians will see what amount of oxygen is needed to get 95% oxygen saturation levels in newborns whose levels were lower. They will take those values and formulate the correct oxygen doses for higher altitude.
- Our physicians will work with the Colorado State Department of Health to create universal numbers for higher altitudes.

More Background on Pulse Oximetry

- Low blood oxygen saturation is an indication of a congenital heart defect in a well-infant.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends Pulse Oximetry assessment of newborns to enhance detection of critical congenital heart disease.
- Pulse oximetry (oxygen saturation) screening is a cost-effective and reliable screening tool for the early detection of congenital heart defects in newborns at sea level. However, studies need to be completed on newborns at Colorado's higher altitudes to determine the appropriate role of pulse oximetry screening in our state.
- Current values at sea level are less than 90% oxygen saturation would prompt a “positive screen” and physicians order a diagnostic echocardiogram.
- Less than 95% oxygen saturation requires a repeat screen after one hour. A second result of less than 95% oxygen saturation requires a repeat screen after one hour. If the second result is less than 90% oxygen saturation, a diagnostic echocardiogram is ordered.

- A third screen with a result of less than 95% oxygen saturation requires a diagnostic echocardiogram.
- According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 36,000 infants are born with congenital heart defects each year in the United States and 8,000 of those babies will die in their first year of life.
- Congenital heart defects are both the most common and the most lethal birth defects, affecting over 50,000 Colorado babies, children, and adults and their families and friends who care for and love them.
- According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, congenital heart defects are the leading cause of death for infants born with a birth defect and a leading cause of infant mortality the world over.

About Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children at P/SL

Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children at P/SL (RMHC at P/SL) is a regional resource for specialty pediatric care founded in 1977 by private practice pediatric specialists at HealthONE's Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center in Denver. Today, RMHC at P/SL is the trusted choice of pediatric and pre-natal care for Rocky Mountain families. The Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children at P/SL campus at is home to the region's largest and busiest neonatal intensive care. It is the only center in the region that offers both high-risk pregnancy care and neonatology on one campus — keeping mothers and babies together in the same hospital for optimal care. Patients are cared for by only board-certified or board-eligible physicians to provide the highest level of care.

www.rockymountainhospitalforchildren.com