



## Charlton Memorial implants world's smallest pacemaker

NEW BEDFORD, MASS. – Southcoast Health announced recently that Charlton Memorial Hospital is the first hospital in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island to implant the world's smallest pacemaker. **DR. ARNOLDAS GIEDRIMAS** performed the initial procedure.

Comparable in size to a large vitamin, physicians at Southcoast Health have elected to use the Medtronic Micra Transcatheter Pacing System (TPS) because unlike traditional pacemakers, the device does not require cardiac wires (leads) or a surgical pocket under the skin to deliver a pacing therapy.

Instead, the device is small enough to be delivered through a catheter and implanted directly into the heart with small tines, providing a safe alternative to conventional pacemakers without the complications associated with leads – all while being cosmetically invisible. The Micra TPS is also designed to automatically adjust pacing therapy based on a patient's activity levels.

"By having a design that is 93 percent smaller than a traditional pacemaker, this pacemaker is able to eliminate the need for leads and a separate pacemaker pocket. This eliminates complications that can come with those aspects and has been shown to have half the complication rate of traditional devices. It offers a new option to patients that have had a prior complication such as device infection, lead fracture or where there is difficulty in using the upper veins to implant the pacemaker. It maintains excellent battery longevity and is MRI compatible. It also offers a new option to patients that want to avoid the cosmetic aspects of a pacemaker in the upper chest area," explained Dr. Giedrimas.

Recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Micra TPS is the only leadless pacemaker approved for use in the U.S. It is approved for patients suffering from bradycardia.

The Micra TPS also incorporates a retrieval feature to enable retrieval of the device when possible; however, the device is designed to be left in the body. For patients who need more than one heart device, the miniaturized Micra TPS was designed with a unique feature that enables it to be permanently turned off so it can remain in the body and a new device can be implanted without risk of electrical interaction. ❖

## Hasbro Children's Hospital opens new 6-bed 'short-stay' unit

*Average length of stay is 12 to 24 hours*

PROVIDENCE – Hasbro Children's Hospital has opened a new Pediatric Clinical Decision Unit (CDU) adjacent to the Hasbro Children's Hospital Emergency Department. The six-bed "short-stay" unit will serve pediatric patients with acute conditions that often require treatment followed by a period of observation and clinical collaboration, often with a specialist.

Patients who may benefit from the new unit include those with asthma, gastroenteritis and dehydration, cellulitis, falls, pain, seizures and headaches or allergic reactions. The average length of stay for a Pediatric CDU patient is 12 to 24 hours.

The new short-stay beds will help open up acute care beds in the emergency department for new patients and improve the overall turnaround time and flow of the emergency department, as well as reduce the rate of patients leaving without being seen.

"In general, many pediatric patients who require hospitalization for acute medical conditions recover quickly and are discharged within 24 hours," said **LYNN PITTSINGER, RN, MSN**, director of pediatric emergency services at Hasbro Children's Hospital. "There are thousands of patients each year spending hours upon hours in the emergency department, or going through the lengthy process of inpatient hospitalization followed by same-day discharge."

Over the last several years, pediatric emergency department use and overcrowding has steadily increased across the country. Pediatric emergency patients are often healthy, having single medical problems prompting their emergency visits, and medical conditions that require shorter hospital stays. Only about 15 percent of pediatric emergency room visits result in inpatient admissions.

"In observation units, efficient care delivery is achieved through frequent reassessment and timely discharge processes," said **FRANK OVERLY, MD**, medical director of the Hasbro Children's Hospital emergency department. "These units have been shown to have low rates of return visits and readmissions. Most importantly, observation units have been shown to reduce crowding by decreasing inpatient admissions and length of emergency department stay, improving efficiency, and increasing rates of patient and staff satisfaction."

Also part of the renovation is the addition of a family room with comfortable seating, computer and Wi-Fi access and a quieter, more peaceful environment for parents to rest while their child is under observation. The room is readily accessible from the CDU, so families remain close to their child and the medical care team. ❖