

UPFRONT

Insights and transparent
talk from leadership

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Exceeding expectations

*Children's Hospital of Wisconsin is recognized
for excellence in surgical care*

BY THOMAS T. SATO, MD

I am very pleased to announce that the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin has been recognized as a verified American College of Surgeons (ACS) Level I Children's Surgical Services site. The ACS Children's Surgery Verification program has been in place nationally for several years, and we are the first hospital and health system to have been re-verified as a system that meets or exceeds the optimal standards for children's surgical care.

We go through the verification process not only to recognize our past efforts, but to learn from others and share best practices throughout the national community of children's hospitals. One example of this is reflected in our new management protocol for appendicitis. To limit children's exposure to ionizing radiation, we have reduced the numbers (by two-thirds) of CT scans for diagnosis of abdominal pain while increasing our rates of ultrasound. Our radiologists have an excellent record of success with this method.

Further on the appendicitis front, we have just closed enrollment for a multicenter clinical trial evaluating the use of antibiotics alone in children with acute appendicitis. This trial was funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and performed at 11 children's hospitals, including ours. We anticipate results of this study sometime next year. With appendectomy being the most common urgent pediatric surgical procedure after trauma, we hope that having a medical option, which is generally less expensive than surgery, will be of significant value to the children and community we serve.

Best,



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