



# JOHN R. KASICH

GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

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## Communication Department

### **Supporting Life-Saving Research at Ohio's Children's Hospitals**

Last July, Governor John R. Kasich visited Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, at which time he visited with doctors and researchers and pledged \$2 million in state funds to Ohio's children's hospitals for collaborative research innovations. The governor's commitment will provide \$1 million each for the following research projects:

#### **Asthma Research:**

- Asthma is one of the leading causes of avoidable hospital admissions for children. This initiative will help hospitals collect and share consistent data on asthma assessments and treatments, improving care and curbing unnecessary health-care costs. The research is highly innovative, harnessing the collective expertise and resources of children's hospitals across the state.
- Ohio's children's hospitals will build a comprehensive data warehouse that links clinical, demographic and other health-outcomes data with biological markers for children with asthma who obtain care at children's hospitals.
- Ohio's children's hospitals will compare and understand effectiveness of strategies currently utilized for the treatment of acute asthma and will better define and anticipate treatment response based on the new data infrastructure.

#### **Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Research:**

- This groundbreaking research on NAS, commonly referred to as "drug addicted babies," is relevant and timely due to the unfortunate, growing trend of opiate and other substance abuse. Preliminary research suggests that in 2011 alone, 606 babies were born with NAS and treated in Ohio's children's hospitals.
- This research aligns with other statewide efforts to end the cycle of drug misuse and abuse. This project will provide essential baseline data on NAS and ensure better outcomes at less cost for mothers and babies.
- Ohio's children's hospitals will conduct retrospective analyses at each hospital in 2011 and prospective evaluation in 2012 for types of drug exposures and co-exposures in babies in Ohio. Ohio's children's hospitals will document current treatment plans to better understand them and look to standardize treatment associated with the best outcomes, fewest side effects and shortest duration of withdrawal for babies with NAS.
  - Ohio's children's hospitals will assess (for babies): demographic characteristics of babies born with NAS; regional patterns in usage and outcomes of treatment; differences in the drugs of abuse detected; lengths of hospital stay; recidivism for these babies; and incidence of multiple exposures.
  - Ohio's children's hospitals will assess (for mothers): demographic characteristics of using mothers; regional patterns in usage; degree to which management of the addicted mother during pregnancy impacts the severity of NAS and impacts on the baby; and estimated differences in outcomes of mothers based on the treatment options.

Ohio's children's hospitals will partner with Ohio Medicaid to capture Medicaid costs for both research efforts over the next two years and document improvements in outcomes.

Funds for both projects are from the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act performance bonus Ohio received for enrolling more eligible children in Medicaid and CHIP.