



Banner Health[®]

For Immediate Release

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March of Dimes recognizes Banner Churchill for work to give more babies a healthy start

FALLON, Nev. (April 24, 2017) – Banner Churchill Community Hospital has reduced the number of elective inductions and cesarean deliveries performed before 39 completed weeks of pregnancy which will give more babies a healthy start in life, according to March of Dimes leaders.

“We’re proud of our expert team of physicians and nurses who recognized the problem of unnecessary early deliveries in our hospital, and put in place policies to avoid scheduling C-sections or inductions before 39 weeks of pregnancy, except when medically necessary,” said Rob Carnahan, RN, chief nursing officer.

Banner Health, the health system that operates 28 hospital including Banner Churchill, implemented a policy at all of its hospitals in 2011 to no longer schedule elective cesarean deliveries and labor inductions before 39 weeks of pregnancy unless specific medical reasons were demonstrated.

“There was a sense that a few weeks wouldn’t make that much difference, but reports on the issue have been clear,” Carnahan said.

A full-term pregnancy is more than the advertised nine months, and is closer to 10 months or 39 to 40 weeks.

March of Dimes is partnering with the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the Nevada Hospital Association to recognize Nevada birthing hospitals that pledge to eliminate early elective deliveries.

“The last weeks of pregnancy are important. Babies aren’t just putting on weight. They are undergoing important development of the brain, lungs and other vital organs,” says Paul E. Jarris, MD, MBA, March of Dimes senior vice president and chief medical officer. “We commend Banner Churchill for being a champion for babies with their quality improvement effort.”

Even babies born just a few weeks early have higher rates of hospitalization and illness than full-term infants, March of Dimes says. Although the overall threat is small, the risk of death more than doubles for infants born at 37 weeks of pregnancy when compared to babies born at 40 weeks, for all races and ethnicities. Babies who survive an early birth often face lifelong health challenges, such as breathing problems, cerebral palsy and intellectual delays.

March of Dimes offers both professional and consumer education about the critical importance of a full-term pregnancy to the health and well-being of babies.

About March of Dimes: March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. For more than 75 years, moms and babies have benefited from March of Dimes research, education, vaccines, and breakthroughs. Each year nearly 4,000,000 babies are born in the United States and March of Dimes touches each one of them through research, education, support, and advocacy. March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Find out how you can help prevent premature birth and birth defects by joining March for Babies at marchforbabies.org. For the latest resources and health information, visit our websites marchofdimes.org and nacersano.org. If you have been affected by prematurity or birth defects, visit our shareyourstory.org community to find comfort and support. For detailed national, state and local perinatal statistics, visit persistats.org. You can also find us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#). A wealth of educational video resources is available on our [YouTube channel](#).

About Banner Health

Headquartered in Arizona, Banner Health is one of the largest nonprofit health care systems in the country. The system owns and operates 28 acute-care hospitals, Banner Health Network, Banner – University Medicine, academic and employed physician groups, long-term care centers, outpatient surgery centers and an array of other services; including Banner Urgent Care, family clinics, home care and hospice services, pharmacies and a nursing registry. Banner Health is in six states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Nebraska, Nevada and Wyoming. For more information, visit www.BannerHealth.com.

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