



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

## Gila River Health Care's Emergency Department Receives Pediatric Care Certification

**Sacaton, AZ, April 5, 2024** – Gila River Health Care's Emergency Department at Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital recently received certification as a "Pediatric Prepared Emergency Center" by the American Academy of Pediatrics Arizona Chapter. The certification recognizes hospitals that demonstrate their ability to provide specific standards of care for injured infants, children, and teens. Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital is among the few Arizona hospitals to receive this designation.

"In response to the growing influx of pediatric patients seeking care at Gila River Health Care's Emergency Department, the Board of Directors, executive leadership, and department management took proactive measures to pursue certification. It was a deliberate step to instill confidence and assurance within the Gila River Indian Community when entrusting their children's healthcare needs to us," said Dr. Anthony Santiago, CEO of Gila River Health Care.

The certification process with the American Academy of Pediatrics was a two-year planning and quality improvement process, which included a virtual site survey. The American Academy of Pediatrics tested the Emergency Department's policies, procedures, and resources to ensure the organization's ability to provide specific standards of care for injured infants, children, and teens. The designation by the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics enhances the quality of pediatric emergency preparedness at accredited hospitals.

The Pediatric Prepared Emergency Center certification is a valuable recognition of Gila River Health Care's commitment to providing excellent care to children. This designation will help ensure that children in the Gila River Indian Community and those from federally recognized tribal communities have access to high-quality emergency care when they need it most.

**About:** *Gila River Health Care (GRHC) is an enterprise of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC). GRHC is an integrated healthcare system that serves Native Americans from federally-recognized tribal communities. Today, the organization is comprised of Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital, a 15-bed hospital with critical access designation located in Sacaton, AZ. This facility provides a wide range of primary and specialty care services and includes a state-of-the-art dialysis unit and skilled nursing facility (The Caring House). The Komatke Health Center is located in Laveen, AZ and opened in January of 2009. This campus offers services to the west districts and offers comprehensive primary and specialty health care and supports the Ak-Chin Clinic located in the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Maricopa, AZ. Hau'pal (Red Tail Hawk) Health Center opened on August 1, 2018, is the third campus within the GRHC system and serves GRIC members and those living within the urban center.*