

As WRAL News talked to WakeMed about Joe Rabiega's concerns, the hospital provided this overview of the WakeMed Children's & Children's Emergency Department.

WakeMed Children's is an invaluable resource for families in this community. Hundreds of thousands of children have benefitted from our Children's services over the years. WakeMed Children's features a talented group of physicians, including pediatric specialists and subspecialists, mid-levels, nurses and therapists who work collaboratively to provide exceptional care for the entire family – as evidenced by our patient satisfaction scores which rank in the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide.

WakeMed offers **the only dedicated Children's Emergency Department in Wake County**, and one of very few dedicated pediatric emergency departments in the state. As such, we are the only emergency department in Wake County specially equipped and staffed to care for children, making it the safest and best choice for children.

- The Children's Emergency Department is staffed by **Board Certified Emergency Physicians**. While there are 90 physicians in the group, which covers all of WakeMed's emergency departments, a **core group of approximately 15 physicians staff the Children's ED**.
- Of this core group, **9 are Board Certified in both pediatrics and emergency medicine** – more than Duke (4-5), UNC (5, only open 17 hrs/day) or even Levine Children's Hospital (5) in Charlotte. The fact that the other six spend the majority of their time in the Children's ED alongside pediatric specialists, means they are gaining valuable expertise in the care of children even if they are not board certified in both specialities.
- **All emergency medicine residency trained physicians have a tremendous amount of training in Pediatric EM**. Over 30% of their training is spent in pediatrics, pediatric critical care, and pediatric trauma. The intent of the training is to take care of the sickest of children including stabilization, resuscitation, treatment and diagnosis of the acutely ill or injured child.
- Recognizing the skill and training that is available at WakeMed, the major academic teaching hospitals (UNC, Duke and ECU) send their students to gain valuable training in WakeMed's Children's ED. WakeMed also offers a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine in conjunction with UNC School of Medicine. We are therefore training the future pediatric emergency physicians of the future.
- When physicians are working in the Children's ED, they are focused only on children and work closely with a support team of nurses, therapists and child life specialists; all of whom also have specialty training in pediatric emergency medicine. This is the benefit of having a stand-alone Children's Emergency Department.

Community pediatricians gladly and willingly send their sick and injured kids to WakeMed. They trust what we do and they know firsthand that there is no better place in this community for children to receive the specialized care they need.

We serve more than 40,000 children annually, and provide specialized care to children ages 0 to 18 in an environment designed to cater to the special health care needs of children. Daily we are caring for some

of the sickest children in our community with both expertise and compassion. This is both a privilege and responsibility to which we are all deeply committed.

We are committed to keeping kids comfortable during what is a tough experience for them – and their parents. Below is a just a small list of how we keep kids as relaxed, comfortable and ‘ouchless’ as possible at our Children’s Emergency Department:

- Child Life Specialists – Specialists on hand to calm patients while they are being treated. They’ll use dolls to show kids how they will get stitches, blow bubbles and read books to patients during treatments (and much more)
- iPods – iPods abound with age appropriate music to help comfort children during treatment
- Intranasal Fentanyl – A nose spray pain reliever that can eliminate the need for an IV morphine drip. It’s extremely helpful for children with burns.
- Synera Patch – Numbing cream to help decrease pain (and helps to not feel the IV)
- LET – Another topical anesthetic that helps children not feel needles/stitches (ex: for children with lacerations)
- Nitrous Oxide – Helps relieve anxiety. This is not for all patients, but can be used for children ages 3-4 and up (who don’t mind the mask)
- Kid-Friendly Waiting Room – Interactive floor, TV screens, video games, etc.