

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Cardinal Glennon Announces Increased Flight Capabilities in Partnership
with PHI Air Medical**

Switch from VFR to IFR Increases Safety and Efficiency

St. Louis, MO, May 21, 2024 – SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital, in collaboration with PHI Air Medical, announces an enhancement in its air medical transport services, broadening its capacity to reach and serve more patients in need. Through this strategic partnership, the hospital has transitioned from Visual Flight Rules (VFR) to Instrument Flight Rules (IFR), enabling safe operating in weather conditions.

The shift to IFR marks a pivotal advancement, allowing Cardinal Glennon to conduct flights with lower visibility limits and in situations where visual ground contact is compromised. PHI’s aircraft and pilots undergo rigorous training and hold full certification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) specifically for flying under these conditions. Throughout an IFR flight, pilots maintain continuous communication with air traffic controllers, benefitting from specialized radar supervision in numerous locations. This ensures optimal aircraft separation and obstacle avoidance, guaranteeing the utmost safety and efficiency.

“We are thrilled to announce this step forward in our air medical transport capabilities,” states Brandie Tieken, director of emergency services at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital. “We are unwavering in our commitment to innovation and improvement, allowing us to serve our community with unparalleled care.”

Echoing this sentiment, Chris Shaffer, Eastern Region Director at PHI Air Medical expresses excitement about this advancement as well, “It is our mission at PHI to move communities to health, and this change allows us to serve even more members of this community. We are grateful for our partnership with Cardinal Glennon and how together we can continue upholding the highest standards of care.”

This partnership between Cardinal Glennon and PHI Air Medical exemplifies a shared vision to deliver excellence in patient care and advance air medical transportation.

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About Cardinal Glennon

Since 1956, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital has offered the highest level of care as the country’s only free-standing, non-profit Catholic pediatric hospital. Located in St. Louis, MO, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon provides hope to thousands of children with complex conditions from Missouri, Illinois and beyond. A member of SSM Health, one of the largest Catholic health care systems in the country, the 195-bed teaching hospital is staffed by SLUCare physicians affiliated with the Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Since 2013, U.S. News & World Report has recognized SSM Health Cardinal Glennon as a Best Children’s Hospital.

About PHI Air Medical

PHI Air Medical is the leading air ambulance provider across the country, providing air medical services and outreach education to local communities and leading healthcare systems. We safely transported over 22,500 patients in 2023, operating out of 82 locations across the United States. At each base, we maintain a dedicated crew of pilots, nurses and communications specialists – all exceptionally trained and ready to respond.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.phiairmedical.com>