



## CASE STUDY:

# EHC SOLUTION ESTABLISHES PEDIATRIC CARE CAPABILITIES IN COMMUNITY HOSPITALS

**SITUATION** A major hospital system faced serious financial challenges in attempting to meet critical needs in its local communities.

### CRITICAL ISSUE

A variety of complex factors increased demand for pediatric services in the communities served by the provider network. In order to safely and cost-effectively meet this acute need for inpatient pediatric care, the system's hospitals would have to upgrade their ability to treat extremely ill children by investing in Pediatric Inpatient Care Units ("PICUs") and specially trained pediatric hospitalists.

### REASONS FOR THE ISSUE

- Children's care typically has been considered the exclusive domain of specialized pediatric hospitals and has been out of reach for the average community hospital.
- Recent clinical advances now mean that even moderately serious pediatric illnesses do not require the several layers of backup services found in major children's hospitals.

## SOLUTION

Working with the healthcare system's leadership, Enhance Healthcare Consultants (EHC) developed a comprehensive clinical and administrative solution to establish Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs) and staff pediatric hospitalists in four of its community hospitals.

## RESULTS

- Safer and more cost-effective strategies at all levels of pediatric care.
- Patient units were designed to easily shift beds from general care to intensive care with all of the required physical plant systems in place.
- Flexible staffing program for physicians and nurses that allowed the hospitals to offer the highest quality care at the lowest cost.