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Contact: Melanie Griffis, Public Relations Manager
Office: (716) 828-3747 | **Cell:** (716) 289-6317 | **Email:** MGriffis@CHSBuffalo.org

Mercy Hospital Introduces “Laughing Gas” Option for Childbirth

Hospital is First in the Buffalo Area to Offer Nitrous Oxide for Pain Relief

Buffalo, NY. – March 23, 2018: The Mercy Hospital Family BirthPlace is pleased to now offer nitrous oxide, also known as “laughing gas”, as another option to ease the discomfort of childbirth.

“The use of nitrous oxide has become an effective and safe choice for expectant mothers who are looking for a less invasive way to manage pain during natural childbirth,” said Susan Littler, MD, PhD, Chair of the OB/GYN Department at Mercy Hospital. “Nitrous oxide allows the patient to stay awake and alert during childbirth while helping to lessen the discomfort from the intense contractions of labor...it can also be used as an alternative for mothers who arrive too late to receive an epidural or are not eligible to receive an epidural due to medical concerns.”

“We are proud to be the first in the area to offer nitrous oxide as a pain relief option for laboring mothers,” said Mary Ann Murphy, Director of Maternal Child Services. “We believe in providing a birth experience which gives women a full array of choices including hydrotherapy/whirlpool tubs, birthing balls, peanut balls, and other comfort measures to support non-medicated births, as well as 24/7 anesthesia coverage for epidurals.”

During childbirth, women self-administer the nitrous oxide as needed.

Expectant mothers who are interested in nitrous oxide for childbirth are encouraged to discuss this option with their physicians and to learn whether they medically qualify to use this method of pain management.

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About Mercy Hospital:

Mercy Hospital is home to the Catholic Health Heart Center, providing a full range of cardiac care services including heart surgery and the latest minimally invasive cardiac procedures, and serves as a Joint Commission-accredited Comprehensive Stroke Center with physician experts and capabilities to diagnose and treat the most complex stroke cases. In 2017, Mercy Hospital was recognized as a High Performing Hospital by U.S. News & World Report for heart bypass surgery and colon surgery, and was named among America’s Top 100 Hospitals for Orthopedic Surgery in 2016 by HealthGrades®. The hospital is also home to the state-of-the-art Mercy Emergency Center featuring 32 private treatment rooms and a rooftop heliport, as well as the Family BirthPlace providing a full spectrum of maternity/child services, a neonatal intensive care unit and a specialized pediatric care unit. Mercy also offers a wide array of outpatient, primary care and rehabilitation services at convenient locations throughout the area, including 24/7 emergency care available at the Mercy Ambulatory Care Center in Orchard Park. Founded over 100 years ago by the Sisters of Mercy, the hospital is committed to medical excellence with an ongoing mission to reveal the healing love of Jesus to those in need.