

UAMS News Bureau

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News Release
Nov. 16, 2016

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**UAMS First Arkansas Hospital to Implement
Infant Footprint Scan, Photograph System**

LITTLE ROCK — The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is the first hospital in Arkansas to implement a program that will give new parents a keepsake of their child’s birth and an assurance of the newborn’s safety.

Through a partnership with CertaScan Technologies’ First Footprint, parents will have the option to have their child’s footprint scanned and their photograph made immediately after birth. The mother’s index fingers will also be scanned and linked to her newborn.

In the event of an abduction, missing child situation or other emergency, this allows for quicker, more efficient identification. The service is provided at no cost to the family.

“This program delivers several benefits to the new families and UAMS,” said Ginny Smith, R.N., director of nursing care at UAMS Medical Center. “In addition to providing a token of the child’s birth, these measures gives peace of mind to the families and hospital staff, as well as put UAMS in line with recommendations from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.”

An electronic scan of the footprint is the quicker, preferred method over an ink print on paper, said Smith, because of the scan’s clear, identifiable image as opposed to an ink print that is prone to smudges and more time consuming for hospital staff.

The footprint and photo will be uploaded to firstfootprint.com and stored for one year.

The families will be provided a certificate with the baby’s name, footprint, birth date and time, weight, and height, creating a personalized keepsake. Families will also have access to the certificate online and have the option to customize, download and print multiple copies of the certificate.

“This is another way to show how much UAMS cares about each newborn while providing another level of safety,” said Smith.

UAMS is the state’s only comprehensive academic health center, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; a hospital; a northwest Arkansas regional campus; a statewide network of regional centers; and seven institutes: the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, the Myeloma Institute, the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, the Psychiatric Research Institute, the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging and the Translational Research Institute. It is the only adult Level 1 trauma center in the state. UAMS has 3,021 students, 789 medical residents and five dental residents. It is the state’s largest public employer with more than 10,000 employees, including about 1,000 physicians and other professionals who provide care to patients at UAMS, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the VA Medical Center and UAMS regional centers throughout the state. Visit www.uams.edu or www.uamshealth.com. Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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