Dollars at Work
Newborn Weight Tool

In addition to equipment and programs, Children's Miracle Network supports innovative research. Dr. Ian Paul, a professor of pediatrics and public health sciences at Penn State College of Medicine and a pediatrician at Penn State Children's Hospital, used Children's Miracle Network funds to create a first-of-its-kind tool to determine whether breastfed newborns lose too much weight during their first few days after birth.

Helping **Families** Through Research

Most exclusively breastfed newborns lose weight after birth, and until now, doctors and parents did not have a way to know if the weight loss was normal or healthy. Dr. Paul, along with Eric Schaefer, a statistician at Penn State, and researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, and Kaiser Permanente, created The Newborn Weight Tool, or NEWT, using a research sample of hourly birth weights from more than 100,000 breastfed newborns.

Health care providers can visit newbornweight.org and input the baby's weight and other information, and NEWT plots the baby's percentile weight loss on a graph. The results help lactation consultants work with mothers to improve their breast milk output and help medical staff identify babies who may be at risk for dehydration.

"Funding from Children's Miracle Network was crucial to allow us to take our research findings regarding newborn weight loss and share them with pediatricians, lactation consultants, nurses, and even parents around the world. The funding allowed us to build a website that can be used anywhere on a desktop computer, tablet, or smart phone to help individual babies and their mothers in real time," says Dr. Paul.

For researchers like Dr. Paul, Children's Miracle Network also opens the door to opportunities to receive additional funding from other sources. He adds, "This support also helps us attract and retain superb scientists at Penn State Children's Hospital to improve the lives of children locally and beyond."

View more "dollars at work" examples at **CMNHershey.org**

PennState Health Children's Hospital

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals