



## MOVING FOR DUMMIES

On a chilly Saturday in February, the brand-new Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC campus in Lawrenceville receives its very first patients, closed-lipped kids who handle their ailments in stride. (To protect their privacy, they've been assigned numbers.) Seventeen has a low white-blood-cell count. Twenty-five has a bacterial infection. Forty has a broken arm—and, for some reason, looks suspiciously like ... a Cabbage Patch Kid?

They're not real patients, dummy. They're CPR mannequins (and at least one doll)—stand-ins for the children during a dress rehearsal for the hospital's big moving day on May 2.

"I've been planning this for two years," says RN Jennifer Iagnemma, the patient coordinator for the move. "It's exciting seeing our group come together to do this."

Her group includes Children's staff and volunteers, plus EMTs

from throughout the Pittsburgh area—about 200 people, all told. For four hours, they work in teams—one nurse and one or two EMTs per ambulance—to carefully move 23 mannequins from patient floors on the Oakland campus to the new hospital three miles away.

Not every trip goes without a hitch. "There are a few dead spots for radio communication," says David LaCovey, EMS coordinator. "But that's the idea behind the drill—to identify things like that."

Wheeling the gurney out of 17's room, EMT Terry Salay nods with the assurance of someone who does nothing but transport patients year round. "[Patients] do throw curveballs at you," he says, looking at Dummy No. 17. "But if there is one, we're ready."

—Elaine Vitone

—Photo by John Altdorfer