



COLORADO'S PEDIATRIC READINESS PROGRAM

ABOUT EMS FOR CHILDREN

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) is a federal program specifically focused on addressing the distinct needs of children in prehospital and hospital emergency medical systems. EMSC works to ensure that seriously sick or injured children have access to the same high-quality pediatric emergency health care, no matter where they live. EMSC State Partnership grants aim to expand and improve each state's capacity and capabilities for delivery of evidence-based, effective pediatric emergency care in alignment with best practice standards.



As a federal program, EMSC must provide evidence of program effectiveness by collecting data on performance measures representing the status of pediatric emergency care in prehospital and hospital settings. Currently, the program collects data on nine performance measures. Three of these performance measures, highlighted below, are the focus of Colorado's Pediatric Readiness Program.

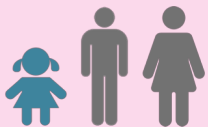
PEDIATRIC READINESS PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The percentage of EMS agencies in the state or territory that have a designated individual who coordinates pediatric emergency care.

The percentage of EMS agencies in the state that have a process that requires EMS providers to physically demonstrate the correct use of pediatric-specific equipment.

The percentage of hospitals with an ED recognized through a statewide or regional standardized program that are able to stabilize and/or manage pediatric medical emergencies.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?



Children comprise nearly 1 in 3 of all ED visits¹



Children represent only 5 to 10% of all EMS calls making it difficult for EMTs to maintain pediatric skills¹



The majority of pediatric ED visits are made to general hospitals that treat adults and children in the same department¹



Only about 6% of EDs in the U.S. have all of the supplies deemed essential for managing pediatric emergencies¹

Caring for sick and injured children requires that providers have specialized training and skills, as well as access to specialized equipment and supplies. It is critical, therefore, that all EDs and EMTs have the appropriate resources and staff to provide effective emergency care for children.



COLORADO'S PEDIATRIC READINESS PROGRAM

EMSC Colorado is currently working on developing its Pediatric Readiness Program. The program will focus on optimizing pediatric emergency care provided by EMTs and EDs across the state. For the prehospital side of the program, EMSC will partner with RETAC coordinators in defining and implementing Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) at the regional and/or agency level. These PECCs will be responsible for evaluating skills competency with EMS providers to ensure the correct use of pediatric specific equipment. PECCs will also work closely with medical directors to implement changes to protocols, such as the use of the Handtevy method, for example. In addition, information gleaned from the [EMSC Innovation & Improvement Center's PECC Learning Collaborative²](#) will be used to inform prehospital pediatric readiness efforts.

For the hospital side of the Pediatric Readiness program, EMSC Colorado is developing a standardized, voluntary pediatric recognition program. This program will include a process for on-site verification of hospital ED capabilities for treating children. Verification will be based on compliance with the current published pediatric emergency and trauma care guidelines.³ Although still in development, Colorado's Hospital Pediatric Readiness Program will likely follow the steps illustrated below:

1



Hospital reaches out to EMSC Colorado Program Manager

2



Hospital completes the online Pediatric Readiness assessment to establish hospital's baseline score

3



Hospital shares assessment results with EMSC Colorado

4



EMSC provides a Pediatric Readiness toolkit to help site address gaps in pediatric readiness

5



Hospital implements strategies/equipment for improving pediatric readiness

6



EMSC conducts a site visit to verify pediatric readiness level

7



Hospital re-takes the online Pediatric assessment to gauge their improvement

8



EMSC assigns final Pediatric Readiness designation and advertises hospital as "Pediatric Ready" on EMSC Colorado website



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WHAT IS THE ONLINE PEDIATRIC READINESS ASSESSMENT?

EMSC, in partnership with AAP, ACEP, and ENA, launched the **National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP)** in 2013. The NPRP is a national continuous quality improvement initiative to ensure that all EDs in the U.S. have the essential guidelines and resources in place to provide effective emergency care to children. The project assesses the readiness of EDs to care for children using an online Pediatric Readiness assessment. The assessment helps identify gaps based on the Joint Guidelines on the Care of Children in the ED.³ From the NPRP website, <http://www.pediatricreadiness.org/>, hospitals can access the online survey and an extensive toolkit that assists them in understanding their readiness scores and supports the use of the assessment to successfully improve pediatric readiness in the ED. The EMSC Colorado Pediatric Readiness program will leverage these existing resources in measuring and improving hospitals' Pediatric Readiness.



HOSPITAL PEDIATRIC READINESS FOCUS AREAS

The **Joint Policy Statement—Guidelines for Care of Children in the Emergency Department**³, provides guidelines necessary for optimal pediatric care in an ED. The **National Pediatric Readiness Project's** (see above) online assessment and corresponding toolkit were based on these guidelines. Colorado's Pediatric Readiness Program will be based on these same guidelines, which are divided into the categories below.

Equipment, supplies, and medications for the care of pediatric patients in the ED

Improving pediatric patient safety in the ED

Administration and coordination of the ED for the care of children

Physicians, nurses, and other health care providers who staff the ED

Policies, procedures, and protocols for the ED

QI/PI in the ED



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Pediatric Readiness Assessment and Scoring Matrix](https://emscimprovement.center/projects/pediatricreadiness/assessment/DownloadAssessmentandScoringMatrixPediatricReadiness27/)

<https://emscimprovement.center/projects/pediatricreadiness/assessment/DownloadAssessmentandScoringMatrixPediatricReadiness27/>

[EMSC's Pediatric Readiness Toolkit](https://emscimprovement.center/projects/pediatricreadiness/readiness-toolkit/)

<https://emscimprovement.center/projects/pediatricreadiness/readiness-toolkit/>

[EMSC Colorado Website](http://www.emscolorado.com)

www.emscolorado.com

[Los Angeles County Pediatric Readiness Project](http://pedsreadytoolkit.com/)

<http://pedsreadytoolkit.com/>

[West Virginia's Always Ready for Kids Project](https://www.wvoems.org/designation-and-categorization/ems-for-children/ark)

<https://www.wvoems.org/designation-and-categorization/ems-for-children/ark>

[Illinois' Pediatric Facility Recognition Program](https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/emergency-medical-services-for-children/facility-recognition/)

<https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/emergency-medical-services-for-children/facility-recognition/>

[Arizona's Pediatric Prepared Emergency Care Program](http://www.azaap.org/Pediatric_Prepared_Emergency)

http://www.azaap.org/Pediatric_Prepared_Emergency

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1. Institute of Medicine, Committee of the Future of Emergency Care in the US Health System. Emergency Care for Children: Growing Pains, National Academies Press, Washington, DC. (2006).
2. <https://emscimprovement.center/collaboratives/pediatric-emergency-care-coordinator-learning-collaborative-pecclc/>
3. American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine; American College of Emergency Physicians, Pediatric Committee; Emergency Nurses Association Pediatric Committee. Joint policy statement: guidelines for care of children in the emergency department. Pediatrics. 124(4):1233-1243. (2009).