

A Reference Guide to
**Pennsylvania's EMS for
Children Program**



Dear EMS Providers:

As EMS providers, it is infrequent that we have interaction with pediatric patients, and these are often our most stressful cases. As part of our commitment to children, the Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program is pleased to provide you with this resource guide to improve your awareness about the EMSC program within the state and to allow you to provide improved emergency medical care for the children of Pennsylvania.

Located within this guide, you will find information relating to the history of the EMSC program both at the state as well as the national level. You will learn about Pennsylvania's EMSC Advisory Council, pediatric statistics gathered from PA EMS patient care reports, how you can become involved in the EMSC program, and other links and resources that are available to you as EMS providers regarding pediatric issues.

PEHSC would like to thank the Pennsylvania Department of Health for their continued support of the EMSC program. It is through their support and funding that PEHSC is able to provide you with this resource guide. We hope that you find it a beneficial resource and will continue to carry out your mission to provide the highest quality of pediatric medical care to the people in your communities.



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Visit the PA EMSC website for many valuable pediatric resources, such as:

- EMSC Advisory Board meeting dates
- Recent meeting minutes
- Links to many excellent pediatric resources
- Application forms for Committee Membership

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Members Area



PA EMS FOR CHILDREN

EMSC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Wertz Evans, Co-chair
Kirsten Johnson-Moore, Co-chair
Steve Mrozowski, staff representative

Important Links

Click here to visit our links page with many resources and EMSC Information

COMMITTEE PURPOSE

[Read More About the Committee Structure and Mission](#)

Resources

PA's EMSC Reference Guide - 2009

PA EMSC Fact Sheet - Revised June 2010

Ohio's Emergency Guidelines for Schools - 3rd Edition



www.pehsc.org/ems_children.htm



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY
HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL
Your Voice In EMS.

THE PENNSYLVANIA EMSC PROGRAM

PA's EMSC Advisory Council Purpose and Composition

Almost 30 percent of Pennsylvania's population is comprised of children. Pennsylvania's Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program is based on a federal initiative designed to reduce child and youth disability and death due to illness and injury.

The EMSC committee of the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) serves as a forum for issues that have a potential impact on the emergency care and transport of all pediatric patients in the Commonwealth; to educate prehospital providers, other health practitioners, and the general public in regard to provision of services available through the EMSC program; to formulate recommendations to the Board of Directors of the PEHSC, which reflect the interest and opinion of pediatric emergency care providers and injury prevention professionals.

The EMSC committee is composed of physicians, nurses, prehospital providers, injury prevention advocates, and other healthcare and EMS professionals. There are no stipulations for membership on the committee, so if you are interested in becoming involved with the EMSC program, contact PEHSC by visiting their website at www.pehsc.org.

The Committee, relying on the expertise of its members, considers issues and develops recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors. Once these recommendations are approved by the Board of Directors, they are forwarded to the Pennsylvania Department of Health as official PEHSC positions on EMS issues.

PA's EMSC Projects

Some recent accomplishments of the PA EMSC Program:

- Every school district in Pennsylvania was provided with a copy of the Emergency Guidelines for Schools, which was provided by the Ohio EMSC program and offers guidelines for helping an ill or injured student when the school nurse or other healthcare provider is not available. This can also be downloaded from our website at www.pehsc.org.
- EMSC representation was added to the statewide medical advisory committee so that pediatric concerns and considerations can be addressed when developing treatment protocols.
- Each ambulance service was provided with a pediatric stethoscope and Broselow™ Tape at no cost to them to bring them into compliance with the current list of required ambulance equipment.
- Each ambulance service was provided with two complimentary educational DVDs: "A Child in Need" and "On the Same Team." Continuing education credits were also made available via the Learning Management System (LMS) for those who watched the DVDs and took the associated exam.
- Recommendations were sent to the Department of Health suggesting the addition of Tylenol to the list of optional medications allowing ALS providers to treat fever and pain. In addition, recommendations were also made to require the presence of AEDs (with both adult and pediatric capabilities), PA Statewide EMS Treatment Protocol books, and other pediatric-specific equipment items on all EMS vehicles in the State.

CURRENT PROJECTS OF THE EMSC PROGRAM

- The surveying and inspection of ambulances across the Commonwealth to ensure their compliance with the nationally recognized pediatric equipment list
- The surveying of the ambulance services and providers to validate the availability and use of pediatric-specific online and offline medical direction since the inception of statewide protocols, which call for the availability of pediatric medical direction.
- The surveying of Emergency Departments within the State to ensure that they have appropriate guidelines and agreements in place for the transfer of pediatric patients between facilities and to higher levels of care.
- The coordination of the identification of pediatric specialty centers and ensure that they have appropriate guidelines and agreements in place for the transfer of pediatric patients between facilities.
- The provision of continued training to field providers have pediatric continuing education available to them. Pediatric courses will be made available at the annual statewide EMS conference.

Calls to Poison Control Centers (end of year statistics – 2007)	
Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia	70,902
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh	139,572
Total	210,474



The Mr. Yuk website - <http://chp.edu/CHP/Mr.+Yuk>

The following were notable observations from the update and analysis of the pediatric data as supplied by Pennsylvania’s ambulance services:

- ❖ The highest frequency reason for a pediatric ambulance call was medical (47%) followed by vehicular accidents (14%); this was consistent with prior years.
- ❖ Medical command was used in 40% of the ambulance calls for pediatric patients with most of the authorization received through the use of protocols and standing orders.
- ❖ The most frequent ALS pediatric treatment was EKG (48%) followed by peripheral IV initiation (34%) and medication administration (9%). The most frequently administered medication to pediatric patients was albuterol.
- ❖ The total number of pediatric patients seen by ambulance services was 84,947.
- ❖ 78% of EMS calls involving children resulted in the child being transported to an emergency department.

** Information taken from the “2008 Updated: Pediatric Prehospital Treatments in Pennsylvania 1999-2008” as provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

EMS FOR CHILDREN RESOURCES

EMSC NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

8737 Colesville Road, Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 202-476-4927
Fax: 202-476-6845
www.childrensnational.org/EMSC

NATIONAL EMSC DATA ANALYSIS RESOURCE CENTER (NEDARC)

295 Chipeta Way
P.O. Box 581289
Salt Lake City, UT 89158
Phone: 801-581-6410
Fax: 801-581-8686

PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Room 606 Health & Welfare Building
625 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0701
Phone: 717-787-7840, www.health.state.pa.us

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS – PA CHAPTER

Rose Tree Corporate Center II
1400 N. Providence Road, Suite 3007
Media, PA 19063
www.paaap.org

AMERICAN TRAUMA SOCIETY

2 Flowers Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
Phone: 717-766-1616, www.atspa.org

SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT (SCAN-EMS)

SCAN-EMS is a free, 3-hour, continuing education program presented by a panel of experts to help you identify signs of child abuse and neglect as well as identify your roles as a healthcare provider
Phone: 866-823-7226, www.pascan.org

SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCE INFORMATION

Information and resources are available for both families as well as healthcare providers regarding children with special healthcare needs <http://mchb.hrsa.gov>

ADDITIONAL LINKS:

Safe Kids Worldwide – www.safekids.org
Institute of Medicine Emergency Care for Children: Growing Pains –
www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11655
JumpStart Triage Tool – www.jumpstarttriage.com

LEVEL I PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTERS

Penn State Hershey Medical Center - Hershey, PA - www.hmc.psu.edu

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children - Philadelphia, PA - www.stchristophershospital.com

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia - Philadelphia, PA - www.chop.edu

The Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, PA - www.chp.edu

LEVEL II PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTERS

Lehigh Valley Hospital - Allentown, PA - www.lvhn.org

Geisinger Medical Center - Danville, PA - www.geisinger.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

The Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC)

600 Wilson Lane, Suite 101, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717-795-0740 or 800-243-2EMS Fax – 717-795-0741 pehsc@pehsc.org

THE FEDERAL EMSC PROGRAM AND HISTORY OF EMSC

Early EMS systems were designed to provide rapid intervention for sudden cardiac arrest in adults and rapid transport for motor vehicle crash victims. There was limited recognition that children required specialized care as well. In 1984, the first EMSC legislation was passed and the EMSC program was established. Since the development of the program, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and several territories have received funding to support pediatric initiatives.

Since its establishment, the EMSC program has improved the availability of child-appropriate equipment in ambulances and emergency departments, supported injury prevention programs, and provided thousands of hours of training to EMTs, paramedics, and other emergency medical care providers.

The Federal EMSC program has developed several goals for each state to implement in an effort to improve the care provided to pediatric patients. These goals are regularly updated and changed to better serve the needs of America's youth. The current performance measures have been designed to address the following issues, just to name a few:

- Availability of on- and off-line medical control
- Availability of pediatric-specific equipment
- Identification of hospitals who are best able to treat pediatric patients
- Development and use of interfacility transfer guidelines and agreements for the transfer of pediatric patients
- Establishment of provider education and recertification requirements
- Integration of EMSC priorities into state EMS systems and regulations

**The Emergency Medical Services for Children Program is a national initiative designed to reduce child and youth disability and death due to severe illness and injury.*



Pennsylvania EMS for Children Webpage:
www.pehsc.org/ems_children.htm



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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

717-787-8740

www.health.state.pa.us



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