

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)

Program Purpose

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.

Accomplishments of PA EMSC

The Pennsylvania EMSC program operates under the guidance of federal performance measures to drive EMS system development regarding the care of pediatric patients. Recently, the EMSC program has been involved in several projects to improve the emergency care provided to children within the Commonwealth. In recent years, the program has:

- Provided pediatric-stethoscopes to all EMS agencies to support compliance with new equipment list standards.
- Provided Broselow™ tapes to all ALS agencies to support compliance with new equipment list standards for ALS vehicles.
- Co-sponsored a recommendation to require AEDs with pediatric defibrillation capabilities on all EMS units beginning in 2011.
- Recommended that a copy of the statewide patient care protocols be required equipment on all EMS units to serve as a reference for EMTs and Paramedics during the treatment of children.



Pennsylvania's EMSC Committee

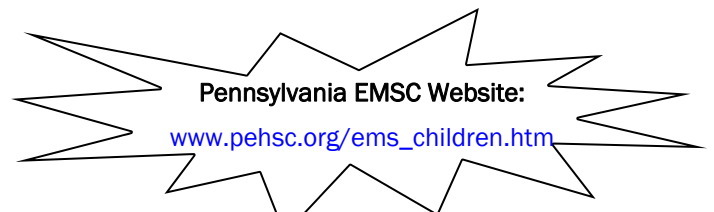
The EMSC committee of the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) serves as a forum for issues that have a potential impact on the emergency care and transport of all pediatric patients in the Commonwealth; to educate prehospital providers, other health practitioners, and the general public in regard to provision of services available through the EMSC program; and 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 memberships on the committee, so if you are interested in becoming involved with the EMSC program, contact PEHSC by visiting 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.

Current EMSC Initiatives

- The EMSC program will survey the ambulance services and providers to validate the availability and use of pediatric-specific medical direction. In addition, EMS agencies will be surveyed regarding the pediatric-specific equipment carried on EMS vehicles as the program works towards compliance with federal equipment recommendations.
- The EMSC program will assist Pennsylvania hospitals in implementing guidelines and agreements for the transfer of pediatric patients between facilities.
- The EMSC program will work with the Bureau of EMS to make sure field providers have access to pediatric continuing education through various programs including the Learning Management System (LMS) and the Statewide EMS Conference.



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