

The Pony Express

Improving Emergency Medical Care for Children All Across Texas

EMS for Children Mission Statement

To reduce child and youth morbidity and mortality caused by severe illness or trauma by providing the right care, at the right place, at the right time.



Summertime in Texas

In May we celebrated EMS for Children Day with a proclamation from Governor Greg Abbott and the presentation of our EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award. Our EMS Recognition Program has been revised and we will be presenting a Prehospital Pediatric Care Coordinator (PECC) workshop as a pre-conference course at the Texas EMS Conference in November. With help from Dell Children's Hospital and Texas Parent to Parent, we are reviving our Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs class. Read about these projects and more in this edition of the Pony Express.

If you have any feedback on our newsletter, or if there are any stories you would like to see, please send them to Sam Vance, Program Manager, EMSC State Partnership, Texas at: spvance@bcm.edu



Upcoming Events

- July 4 [Independence Day](#)
- Aug. 17-18 [Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council \(GETAC\) Meetings](#). Austin, TX
- Aug. 17 [Texas EMSC Advisory Committee Meeting](#), Austin, TX
- Sept. 5 [Labor Day](#)



www.bcm.edu/emsc

Governor Abbott Proclaims EMS for Children Day

Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation observing May 18, 2022, as Emergency Medical Services for Children Day in Texas. In the proclamation he encourages “all Texans to recognize the important work of EMS practitioners and the entire pediatric emergency care profession, appreciate the vital contribution they make in safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of their communities, and advocate for specialized emergency care for children.”

National EMS for Children Day places a spotlight on the delivery of high-quality emergency medical care for children, focusing on the unique needs of critically ill or injured pediatric patients and the challenges faced by EMS professionals in meeting those needs.

EMS for Children Day is a time to honor those of you who take care of our children in an emergency. The Texas EMS for Children Program would like to thank the thousands of health care professionals – EMT’s, Paramedics, nurses, and physicians – who for the last 38 years have worked with the EMSC Program at the state and national levels to improve the care provided to children in the emergency setting (Click on image to enlarge).



National PPRP
Pediatric Readiness Project
Ensuring Emergency Care for All Children

PEDIATRIC DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Learn how to integrate the unique needs of children and families into your hospital disaster preparedness plan at:

tinyurl.com/peds-disaster-prepared

The illustration depicts a medical team in a blue inflatable boat on a body of water. A paramedic in a green uniform is holding a black umbrella over a child who is lying down. Another paramedic in a green uniform is sitting next to the child, holding a clipboard. A third person, possibly a nurse or doctor, is also in the boat. The background shows a dark, stormy sky with rain falling.

2022 EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award Recipients

Originally published in Galveston County Health District News and Events
<https://www.gchd.org/Home/Components/News/News/4714/65>

Galveston Area Ambulance Authority (GAAA) Clinical Compliance Officer Bradley Starkey, and Margaret Williams, who oversees GAAA quality assurance, on Friday were awarded the EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award from the EMS for Children State Partnership, Texas. Starkey and Williams were recognized for their exceptional efforts in developing a more robust pediatric care program at GAAA aimed at improving emergency care to its youngest patients.

“Winning this award is unexpected, but very appreciated,” Starkey said. Williams added, “I want to thank the field crew for being so great and caring for our pediatric patients. Brad and I would not have been able to be awarded the EMSC Children’s Award without their ability to care for our county’s pediatric patients. To our field crew, you guys are absolutely resilient, and we are proud to work beside you all.”

The EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award was presented during National EMS Week, observed May 15-21, and following National Emergency Medical Services for Children Day, observed May 18. GAAA responds to more than 1,000 calls a year involving pediatric patients. As pediatric-related call volume increases at GAAA, Starkey and Williams took it upon themselves to enroll in an eight-month long Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) program to hone in on their skills and learn how to build a more robust pediatric program. “Our service has a high volume of pediatric patients. We all know how to treat children, of course. that benefits the patient.”



Pictured: Margaret Williams and Bradley Starkey

However, working with children in an emergency is not only stressful for the child, but also stressful for the healthcare workers taking care of them,” Starkey said. “Being a PECC allows us to better understand the needs and work with our community partners to create better awareness and training with each other that benefits the patient.”

As Starkey and Williams trained to be PECCs, they shared their knowledge with fellow crew members, and GAAA was able to achieve 100 percent quality assurance and quality improvement on every pediatric patient, provide direct feedback to GAAA crew members and make evidence-based changes to clinical practice guidelines (Story continued page 7).



Preparing families with children with disabilities and medical needs for disaster takes a village. The Great Lakes Pediatric Consortium for Disaster Response Region V for Kids (An ASPR Pediatric Disaster Center of Excellence) has developed two just-in-time toolkits to help these vulnerable children and their families prepare for disaster incidents.

Please join us and other communities in posting the following links on your hospital/health care system website to share with your community partners.

1. The [Be Ready: Tips for Families of Children and Youth with Disabilities and Medical Needs](#) toolkit offers a suite of multi-language infographics and just-in-time ADA compliant videos that are available via the website link and YouTube.
2. The second toolkit [Disaster and Families of Children with Disabilities: What Every Health Care Provider Needs to Know](#) consists of a 4 minute video, infographic and provider teaching checklist.

These resources were created to be shared with the public domain and we invite you to use them as part of local disaster preparedness and community benefit. Feel free to share the resource on your social media, in newsletters and make the infographics available in clinics and patient care areas.

In addition visit the National Pediatric Disaster Coalition (NPDC) at <https://www.npdcoalition.org/> to join the NPDC social media in promoting the strong work of the ASPR Pediatric Disaster Center of Excellence and HRSA Pediatric Pandemic Network.

National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) Assessment Now Available

In response to ongoing interest in the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP), we are happy to announce that the NPRP Assessment is now available on the [PedsReady](https://www.pedsready.org) website in an online format!

Taking the assessment will essentially function the same as it did in 2021 for any hospital and/or emergency department (ED) wishing to reassess their readiness. Simply go to www.pedsready.org, select the state (Texas), county, and name of your hospital/ED from the drop-down menu and begin the assessment in the assessment software.

Once submitted, you'll receive a summary report which shows:

- Overall readiness score
- Answers to all scored questions broken down by the six domains of the assessment
- Copy of all answers to all questions in the assessment (both scored and non-scored)

A couple of important points to keep in mind with this process:

This is a quality improvement (QI) period, and this assessment is completely voluntary. Hospitals/EDs can access the website anytime they wish to take the assessment for their own records and purposes.

Hospital/ED names **WILL NOT** be removed from the list on the website once they complete the assessment.

Hospital/EDs may repeat this process as many times as they wish to generate an updated readiness score.

The **email summary report** a respondent receives **IS NOT a gap report** like you received during the 2021 assessment. This means that it **WILL NOT contain any comparison scores** or information to previous assessments.

Hospital/EDs may want to compare their overall reassessment scores and answers to individual scored questions from their 2021 gap report. If a hospital/ED did not save their 2021 gap report, they may reach out to Texas EMS for Children Program Manager, Sam Vance for a copy. spvance@bcm.edu or 832-824-EMSC (3672).

Thank you for your continued support of pediatric readiness and QI efforts!



Revised EMS Recognition Program Now Available!

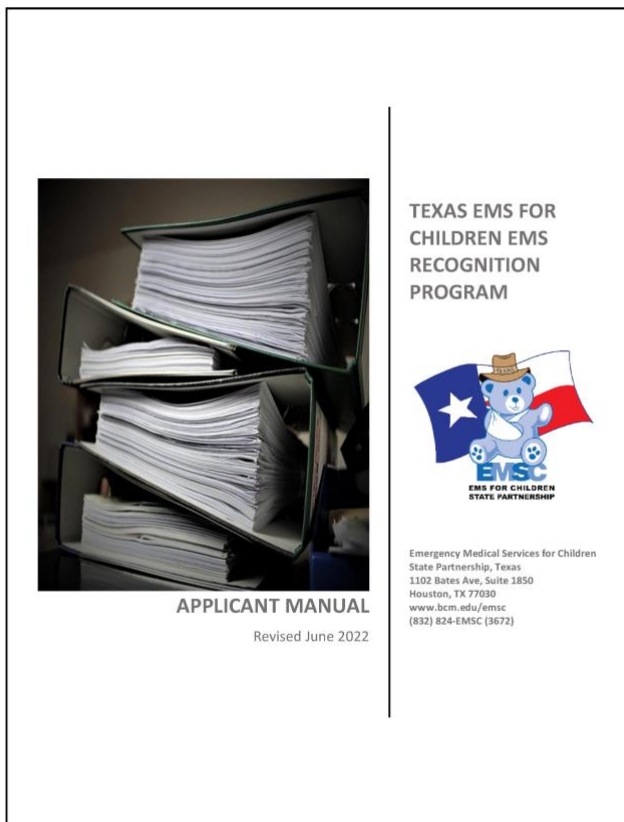
The EMS for Children (EMSC) Voluntary EMS Recognition Program was originally developed in 2014 and was based on having proper equipment standards and protocols, pediatric education for providers, and providing pediatric focused community outreach. Since that time, three new National EMSC Performance Measures have been developed. A new recommended essential equipment list for ground ambulances has been published and the Prehospital Pediatric Readiness EMS Agency Checklist has been developed. As such, the EMS Recognition Program has been revised to reflect these new performance measures and research.

This document has been prepared by the Texas EMSC Program to assist the leadership of licensed EMS agencies within the state that desire to apply for recognition through the Texas EMSC EMS Recognition Program. Currently licensed EMS agencies within the State of Texas are eligible to participate.

The EMS Recognition Program has as its primary purpose the improvement of pediatric emergency care outcomes and patient safety within the prehospital environment (local, regional, and state levels). The EMS Recognition Program will prepare EMS agencies to provide higher quality care for infants, children, and adolescents for the evaluation, treatment, and/or stabilization of children with medical and traumatic emergencies.

If you are interested in preparing your EMS agency to become pediatric ready, please follow the links below to download additional information. You can also contact EMSC Program Manager, Sam Vance for more information: spvance@bcm.edu or 832-824-EMSC (3672).

- [Application Manual](#)
- [Application Form](#)
- [Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Medical Services Systems](#) (Resource Document)



(Continued from page 3)

GAAA provides services to pediatric patients ranging from specialty care and emergency evacuations to a high volume of drownings due to the geographical region it serves. The pediatric program is also set up to recognize real-time needs to increase quality of medical care to patients. Starkey said the next goal is to create a seamless transition in patient care between GAAA and local emergency departments.

“We want to create an environment where we can maximize patient care and give our pediatric patients the best care and experience on what may be a very bad day for them,” Starkey said.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges in providing pediatric care. GAAA worked with the Galveston County Health District to put practices in place that created better patient outcomes and continuity of care when partnering with hospitals and other facilities.

“I couldn’t be prouder of Brad and Maggie,” said GAAA EMS Director Amy Weber. “They recognized a need and stepped up to better serve our team and community. We will continue to expand our pediatric program and plan on providing education to not only our EMS staff, but to the communities in Galveston County. Evidence-based medicine is critical to quality of life, and we are passionate about providing that to the communities we serve.”



Pictured: Operations Manager Ian Davis, Margaret Williams, EMSC Program Manager Sam Vance, and Bradley Starkey

Is Your **EMS AGENCY** *Pediatric Ready?*



Scan the QR codes to
find out...



CHECKLIST



TOOLKIT

Check out these **FREE** Pediatric Resources



Collections of best practice resources designed to empower providers to deliver the highest quality of care and support to children in emergency settings.

Including: Infographics, bottom-line recommendations, learning modules, podcasts, videos, simulations, and more.



The mission of the EIIIC is to optimize outcomes for children across the emergency care continuum by leveraging quality improvement science and multidisciplinary, multisystem collaboration.

Save the Date!

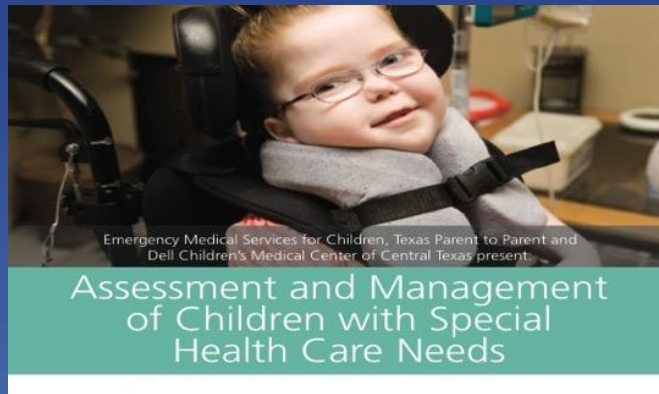


Optimal Pediatric Care: The Prehospital Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC)

Where: Texas EMS Conference, Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX

When: November 19, 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Pediatric Patients have unique needs that every EMS provider must ensure are appropriately met. A Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) facilitates the integration of pediatric needs into all aspects of EMS. This individual or individuals need not be solely dedicated to this role; it can be an individual(s) already in place who assumes this role as part of their existing duties. They may also work at a county or regional level or serve more than one agency. This preconference workshop introduces the pediatric emergency care coordination in EMS and gives tools to help prehospital PECCs be successful within their system.



Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs

Where: Dell Children's Medical Center Auditorium, 4900 Mueller Blvd., Austin, TX

When: December 5, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Advances in medical technology allow more children with special health care needs into the mainstream. Emergent Assessment of these children can be very difficult due to the fact their "baseline" is very different than other children and unique physical and mental conditions are unfamiliar to the provider and often pose barriers to the routine assessment and management.

This class is designed to provide EMS personnel with cognitive knowledge and practical, hands-on training to prepare them for the assessment and management of children with special health care needs. The course is designed for all levels of EMS provider and focuses primarily on Basic assessment and management.

