



## Texas EMS for Children State Partnership VOLUNTARY PEDIATRIC READINESS PROGRAM (VPRP)

### Why Texas?

A survey conducted in 2013, which involved 305 EDs, indicated that variability existed amongst EDs' ability to provide basic care to children. While the program recognizes that not every hospital may have a pediatric specific ED, every ED must be equipped for the basic evaluation and stabilization of a pediatric emergency.

### Program Goal

To bolster pediatric readiness within communities and critical access hospitals such that children and families can benefit from the availability of at least one ED in their own community that is equipped to stabilize and/or manage common emergencies for children



### What does it measure?

Readiness to care for ill and injured children in the following areas: staff qualifications, quality improvement efforts, policies/procedures, continuing education, equipment/supplies and medication.



### How to participate?

Submit the VPRP assessment request form to receive an application; submit a complete application with required documents; go through a site assessment with a designated review team; receive recognition if required criteria are met.



### What will be your time commitment?

Following the receipt of an application, the program anticipates a 4 hour long site assessment to occur within 60-90 days. This timeline may be increased or shortened based upon facility readiness.



### How do we support you?

Throughout the application process and at the applicant's request, the program will provide resources (evidence-based guidelines, sample of policies and procedures for the ED, pediatric readiness toolkits etc.), to help applicants meet the baseline standard set forth by the program.

### Why Participate?

- Create a culture driven to continue improvement of pediatric patient outcomes, availability of equipment, services, and up to date treatment policies and protocols.
- Increase the public's confidence in overall quality of a hospital's ability to address medical needs of children
- Increase exposure of hospital in local communities as a facility prepared to address critical pediatric needs during a medical or trauma emergency.
- Utilize recognition gained as a recruiting and marketing tool to attract high quality physicians, nurses and other healthcare specialists.
- Enhance potential educational and grant funding opportunities developed for rural hospitals and staff.

Are you ready to lead the way to pediatric readiness in the Texas?

Contact the EMSC program for more information:

Email: [emsctexas@bcm.edu](mailto:emsctexas@bcm.edu)

Ph: (832) 824-3672

\*see reverse for FAQ sheet

# Frequently Asked Questions

## VOLUNTARY PEDIATRIC READINESS PROGRAM

**Q: Where do I find the assessment request form?**

**A:** Contact the program manager to receive the link. In the future, the form will be housed on our website.

**Q: Who can apply to the program?**

**A:** The VPRP is currently in its pilot phase and has not been open to all hospitals. If you are interested in participating, contact the program manager.

**Q: Who will conduct the site facility assessment?**

**A:** Once application has been deemed complete, a team of facilitators approved by the EMSC Advisory Committee will be selected to conduct the site assessment. Unless otherwise specified, the team will consist of a physician, a nurse, and a hospital administrator.

**Q: Does the VPRP provide an official designation?**

**A:** No, the program's goal is to recognize EDs who voluntarily go above and beyond to ensure their readiness to care for children. It does not designate.

**Q: Is licensure affected by participation in VPRP?**

**A:** No, the decision to participate in this readiness program will in no way impact your licensure by the Texas Department of State Health Services Office of EMS and Trauma Systems.

**Q: Where do I find the application?**

**A:** The application will be provided once the program receives the assessment request form.

**Q: When do you start accepting applications?**

**A:** The program is currently accepting applications for the pilot phase of VPRP. Starting 2020, the application period will open on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Q: Is there a deadline to submit an application?**

**A:** For the pilot phase, applications will be considered until the desired number of applicants has been reached. Starting 2020, the deadlines to submit applications will be November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Q: How long is the application process?**

**A:** The application period lasts from August 1<sup>st</sup> until EMSC Day in mid May when the hospitals are notified of their recognition status.

**Q: How long after the assessment will we be informed of recognition?**

**A:** The EMSC program will reach out to the applicant within 6 weeks from the assessment date to inform the facility of next steps. If the EMSC Advisory Committee will give recognition, it will be announced on EMSC Day of that year.

**Q: Do we receive a certificate at the end?**

**A:** Yes, a certificate or plaque of recognition will be given to the facilities that have successfully met the recognition criteria.

**Q: How long is the assessment?**

**A:** Currently, the site assessment is setup to take place virtually and will last for approximately 4 hours, unless otherwise stated by the facilitator team.

**Q: Does the application have a fee?**

**A:** No, the application is free of charge at this time.

**Q: Is Texas DSHS involved in the recognition process?**

**A:** No, only the EMSC Advisory Committee will decide whether or not recognition will be provided based on the performance of the ED's application, and recommendations from the facilitator team.

**Q: Can I apply for any level of recognition if I meet the criteria?**

**A:** At this time, the program is only accepting applications for the "Pediatric Ready" level of recognition.

**Q: If we don't gain recognition the first time, can we apply again?**

**A:** Yes, facilities still needing to meet some of the guidelines will be provided with resources to strengthen their applications and can re-apply when ready.

**Q: If we are not happy with the committee's decision, can we appeal?**

**A:** If the applicant has any questions or concerns regarding an unfavorable result of their assessment, they are welcome to submit a written explanation of why they disagree with the decision and to request for a new panel of facilitators to conduct a second assessment.