

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.



Happy New Year!

As we say goodbye to 2022 and look forward to 2023, I want to thank all of you who provide exceptional care to the children of Texas!

As we move into 2023 work continues on initiatives that will help your hospital or EMS agency provide optimal care for children. The Voluntary Pediatric Recognition Program (VPRP) will move from its pilot phase to being fully operational. The EMS Recognition Program revision was released in June 2022 and will soon be adding a component to recognize our air medical providers as being pediatric ready. We will be working with the Pediatric Committee and the Disaster Preparedness and Response Committee of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) to ensure all hospitals disaster plans address issues specific to the care of children. We continue providing education on the new pediatric verification standards for both adult and pediatric trauma centers by the American College of Surgeons (ACS), as well as the revisions to the Texas trauma rules. A renewed focus on family partnership will take place to ensure family issues are adequately represented in the State EMS and Trauma System.

If you would like more information about how you can become involved, please contact Sam Vance, Program Manager, EMSC State Partnership, Texas at: spvance@bcm.edu

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 4 [EMSC Survey](#) begins
- Jan. 16 [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#): EMSC Offices Closed
- Mar. 6 [EMSC Advisory Council Meeting](#): Virtual
- Mar. 6 - 9 [Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council](#): Austin, TX
- Mar. 31 [EMSC Survey](#) concludes



www.bcm.edu/emsc



Ascension Seton Hays Hospital Recognized as Pediatric Ready



Pictured: Kristen Featherston, Sarah Leverett, Dr. Kathleen Berg, Margaret Beville, Sally Snow, Sam Vance, and Dr. Sujit Iyer

The Texas EMS for Children State Partnership is proud to announce that Ascension Seton Hays Hospital in Kyle, Texas, has successfully met all the pediatric readiness requirements of the Texas EMS for Children State Partnership's Voluntary Pediatric Recognition Program! By pursuing and achieving recognition, Ascension Seton Hays Hospital has put itself through a rigorous review process. They have demonstrated to a team of facilitators during a combined virtual and on-site visit their commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

The VPRP prepares emergency departments (EDs) to provide higher quality care for infants, children, and adolescents for the evaluation, treatment, and/or stabilization of children with medical and traumatic emergencies. Similar to trauma center designation, the VPRP aids

facilities in self-identifying areas in which they can optimize care.

Unlike trauma center designation however, the purpose of the VPRP is **NOT** to differentiate EDs based on the level of care they can provide for children. Rather, the purpose is to promote basic recognition for ALL EDs to be able to provide initial stabilization of children with emergency conditions.

One of the primary goals of the VPRP for EDs is to bolster pediatric recognition within communities and critical access hospitals so children and families can benefit from the availability of at least one ED in their own community which is equipped to stabilize and manage or transfer common emergencies for children.

At its core, the VPRP provides the foundation to ensure high quality pediatric emergency care and is a positive experience for both the hospital and its staff. Benefits include:

- Creating a culture driven to continue improvement of pediatric patient outcomes, availability of equipment, services, and up to date treatment and transfer policies and protocols.
- Increasing the public's confidence in overall quality of a hospital's ability to address medical needs of children.
- Recognizing physicians, nurses, specialists, and other clinical staff for their knowledge, abilities, and commitment through their employment in a pediatric ready recognized facility; (Continued on next page)

therefore, demonstrating a solid hospital wide commitment to excellent health care of Texas' pediatric population through their support of the VPRP program

- Increasing exposure in local communities as a facility prepared for addressing critical pediatric needs during a medical or trauma emergency. This is visible in the form of a plaque displayed in the facility's emergency department and through listing the facility on the Texas EMSC State Partnership's website.

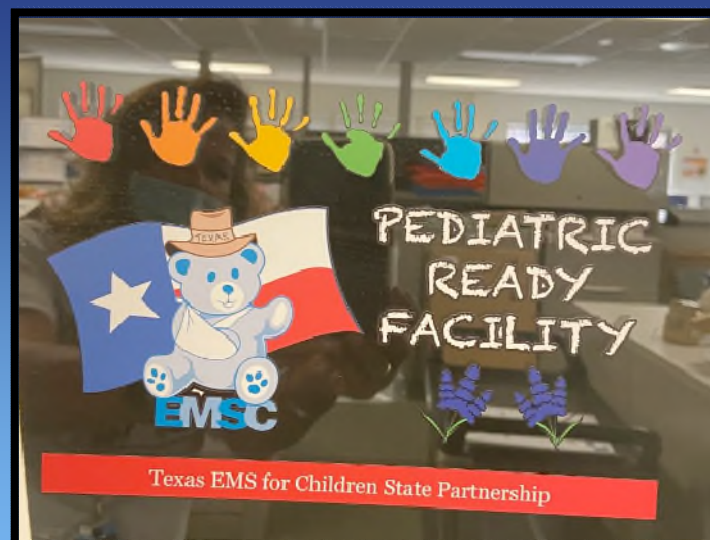
The EMS for Children program, or EMSC, is a federally funded program through a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and is the only federally funded program solely focused on improving the quality of pediatric emergency care. The program funds and supports pediatric emergency care initiatives and projects in all 50 states and eight U.S. Territories.

The mission of the EMSC program is ensure that all children and adolescents receive appropriate

emergency health care when it is needed regardless of where they live, attend school, or travel. and ensure that pediatric services and resources are well integrated into both EMS systems and hospital emergency departments.

Baylor College of Medicine is the site of the Texas EMSC office and is working in partnership with the largest children's hospitals in Texas, their affiliated colleges of medicine, and representatives of the Texas Department of State Health Services. Through this collaboration, the EMSC State Partnership, Texas has created the infrastructure to assess and achieve defined EMSC Performance Measures. In addition, the EMSC State Partnership, Texas works tirelessly to improve education, research, and pediatric prehospital care. One of the various ways the program does this is through our Voluntary Pediatric Recognition Program.

To learn more about the Texas EMS for Children State Partnership's Voluntary Pediatric Recognition Program, please contact Program Manager Sam Vance: spvance@bcm.edu or 832-824-EMSC (3672). Or, visit our website: bcm.edu/emsc





2023 EMS for Children Survey

The 2023 EMS for Children Survey launched January 4, 2023! This is a national survey of EMS agencies to better understand the EMS system's ability to care for ill or injured children, which is particularly important during the current public health crisis. We recognize this is a difficult time and appreciate your help as we seek to understand more about pediatric emergency care amidst the pandemic. In past years, the responses from you and your colleagues have helped identify needs and provide resources for improving pediatric emergency care at the local and national level. To continue building on this momentum, we are relying on administrators from all EMS agencies to respond to this questionnaire. Your responses will be used by the Texas EMSC Program for quality improvement efforts. De-identified data from agencies across the country will also be combined to review progress and provide support for integrating the needs of children into our overall emergency care systems.

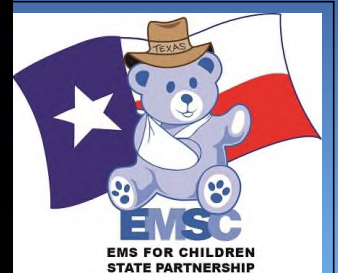
If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Texas EMS for Children Program Manager, Sam Vance: spvance@bcm.edu or 832-824-EMSC (3672).



EMS FOR CHILDREN SURVEY JAN-MAR, 2023

EMS agencies with a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) are more likely to have pediatric skill-checking evaluations.

emscSurveys.org



Pediatric Readiness in Texas; It's Coming

By Sally Snow and Sam Vance.

DSHS has proposed changes in the trauma rules to include a component of Pediatric Readiness (Peds Ready). The American College of Surgeons - Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT) is also incorporating Peds Ready in its new addition of *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient* published in March 2022. What does that mean for Texas Trauma Centers?

In 2021, 267 of 525 hospital and free-standing emergency departments (FSEDs) in Texas participated in the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) assessment. These 267 hospital and FSEDs cumulatively treated 778,402 children in their emergency departments (EDs) January - August 2021. The majority were treated in general ED's in community hospitals. The average score of Texas hospitals on this assessment was 74 on a scale of 0 – 100, demonstrating that many hospitals lacked the nationally recommended pediatric readiness core elements, including pediatric emergency care coordinators, quality improvement plans for pediatric patients, and disaster plans addressing issues specific to children.¹

Studies have shown, in the absence of pediatric specific verification programs like the Texas EMSC Voluntary Pediatric Recognition Program (VPRP), designated trauma centers are **no more likely** to achieve high pediatric readiness scores than non-designated facilities. **The average score of Texas hospitals designated as trauma centers was 73** on a scale of 0 - 100. **Non-designated trauma centers had an average score of 74.**

While the development of trauma centers has resulted in improved outcomes overall, the adoption of pediatric specific elements by pediatric trauma centers have resulted in even greater decreases in morbidity and mortality for injured children.

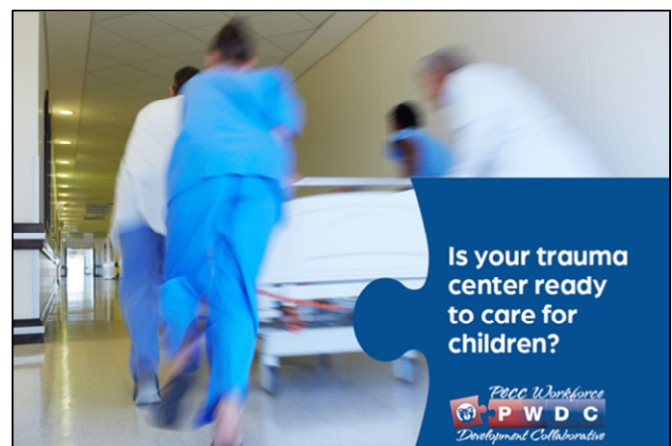
This is likely related to increased adherence to pediatric-specific needs (i.e., pediatric readiness) and alludes to the potential impact of pediatric readiness on healthcare outcomes. Indeed, **pediatric readiness is associated with a 4-fold decrease in mortality for critically ill children.**²

While trauma verification requirements have led to higher standards of care, the American College of Surgeons - Committee on Trauma (ACS-COT), recognizing gaps in the care of injured children, announced new pediatric standards for all verified trauma centers, including a standard based on the National Pediatric Readiness Project beginning September 2023. Likewise, the revised Texas Trauma Rules will also include aspects of pediatric readiness projected to begin January 1, 2024. This will impact approximately 60% of all Texas EDs.

To help trauma centers prepare for the new standard, the EMS for Children Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC) has all the resources needed to know what to do to be peds ready. To learn more about pediatric readiness and access related resources and tools [here](#).

References

1. National EMS for Children Data Analysis Resource Center. *2021 Pediatric Readiness Assessment State/Territory Frequency Report*. Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah. (December 2021).
2. Remick K, Gaines B, Ely M, Richards R, Fendya D, Edgerton EA. Pediatric emergency department readiness among US trauma hospitals. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg*. 2019 May;86(5):803-809. doi: 10.1097/TA.0000000000002172. PMID: 30601455.



Is your trauma center ready to care for children?

PECC Workforce
P W D C
Development Collaborative

2023 EMS for Children Crew of the Year Nominations Underway

National EMS Week 2023 is May 21 thru May 27, and Wednesday, May 24, is set-aside for National Emergency Medical Services for Children Day. National EMS Week is an annual celebration of the dedication and commitment of EMS providers all over the country making differences in the lives of millions of Americans every day. It also provides us with an opportunity to bring together EMS agencies and their local communities to focus attention on illness and injury prevention and raise awareness about issues important to the continued development and improvement of EMS and Trauma systems.

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. Hundreds of communities around the nation are planning special events to honor the men and women who provide emergency care to our children and to raise awareness about safety and prevention and the ongoing need to improve and expand specialized care for children in the prehospital setting.

In honor of EMS for Children Day 2023, the Texas EMS for Children State Partnership is now accepting nominations for the 14th annual EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award. This award is granted to an EMS crew or station who has displayed outstanding care for a child in an emergency medical or trauma event,

demonstrated exceptional effort in the development of pediatric training or quality improvement programs or was instrumental in planning and conducting creative injury prevention programs.

The awards will be presented to the winning nomination during a ceremony on the National Emergency Medical Services for Children Day on May 24, 2023. Recipients will receive individual certificates of appreciation and a plaque for their station or crew quarters recognizing them as champions in the emergency care for children in Texas.

Thank you for helping us recognize the men and women who go above and beyond to serve the children in our communities.

To submit a nomination for the EMS for Children Crew of the Year, [Click Here](#).



Pictured: 2022 EMS for Children Crew of the Year Award recipients Paramedic Margaret Williams and Paramedic Bradley Starkey of the Galveston Area Ambulance Authority.

Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs

On December 5, 2022, the Texas EMS for Children State Partnership in collaboration with Dell Children's Medical Center and Texas Parent to Parent presented the Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs class.

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. However, equipment is available in the appropriate skills stations to demonstrate port access for IV therapy and advanced airway management using tracheostomy and/or stoma for advanced level providers. The program brings together EMS professionals and special needs children and/or their parents or caregiver to provide a unique perspective to the challenges and common misperceptions of emergency assessment and management of children with special health care needs.



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

The Texas EMS for Children State Partnership presented "Optimal Pediatric Care: The Prehospital Pediatric Care Coordinator (PECC)" as a preconference workshop at the 2022 Texas EMS Conference.

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 workshop introduces pediatric emergency care coordination in EMS and gives tools to help PECCs be successful within their systems.

To learn more about Prehospital PECCs and access related resources and tools [here](#). Or contact Program Manager Sam Vance: spvance@bcm.edu or 832-824-EMSC (3672). Or visit our website: bcm.edu/emsc



Dr. Kate Remick presents on quality improvement.

Welcoming the Newest Pediatric Disaster Center of Excellence

By EMS for Children Innovation and Improvement Center



The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has awarded funding for a new Pediatric Disaster Care Center of Excellence led by Texas Children's Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine.

The center, Gulf 7-Pediatric Disaster Network (G7), covers six U.S. states – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas – and Puerto Rico. The existing centers of excellence, Western Regional Alliance for Pediatric Emergency Management (WRAP-EM) and Region V for Kids, cover Arizona,

California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Utah and Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin respectively).

Expanding regional pediatric disaster capacity and capability

As with the existing centers of excellence, G7 will work to improve regional capacity to provide pediatric care in large-scale crises and will serve as a hub for disaster-focused education, training, and resource deployment. The new center will also join Region V for Kids and WRAP-EM as core partners in the Pediatric Pandemic Network (PPN).

G7 is led by Brent Kaziny, MD, a leading voice in the pediatric disaster field. In addition to teaching at Baylor College of Medicine and serving as medical director of emergency management at Texas Children's Hospital, Kaziny co-directs disaster work for the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC) and co-leads PPN's pediatric surge work.

"When calamity strikes in the form of a natural disaster or mass casualty event, it's too late to plan for the seamless continuity of care for critically ill children," Kaziny says. "Through the G7 coalition, we will marshal our clinical expertise and experience to create a proven disaster response model that puts pediatric patients first."

The work ahead

ASPR funded the inaugural centers of excellence in 2019 as pilot projects. Since then, WRAP-EM and Region V for Kids have spearheaded significant projects in their regions, such as developing and implementing pediatric-focused hazard vulnerability assessments, mental health resources, surge exercises, and toolkits focused on children with special medical needs. Both centers have also supported regional COVID-19 response efforts.

"We're thrilled to welcome this third center of excellence to the pediatric disaster community," says Charles Macias, MD, MPH, who co-leads EIIC, PPN, and Region V for Kids. "Dr. Kaziny is an outstanding advocate for kids. With his leadership, G7 will transform care for children in its target region while contributing to nationwide efforts to improve pediatric-focused preparedness and response." (Continued on next page)

As Kaziny and the G7 team begin working to lead initiatives throughout and beyond the Gulf Coast region, they will work closely with Region V for Kids, WRAP-EM, PPN, and EIIC, and with multiple other federally funded entities, including the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center, the Southern Regional Disaster Health Response System, the Radiation Injury Treatment Network, and Hospital Preparedness Program participants.

For more information about G7, see the [Texas Children's Hospital press release](#) from Nov. 15.

Position Available: G7 Pediatric Disaster Network (G7-PDN)

G7 Pediatric Disaster Network (G7-PDN) is a federally funded consortium that aims to ensure the states of the gulf coast can comprehensively respond to disaster events impacting child health, expanding capabilities by leveraging existing efforts while developing and disseminating disaster preparedness and response best practices, regionally. The Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) funds three Pediatric Disaster Care Centers of Excellence (COE), with Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine leading one of these, G7-PDN; a consortium of experts from across the Gulf coast, including Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

We are hiring for the following position:

- [Senior Research Operations Associate](#) who will serve as the grant-wide program manager

For more information, please click on the links above or contact Dr. Brent Kaziny at bxkaziny@texaschildrens.org



EMS for Children at the 2022 Texas EMS Conference

The Texas EMS Conference attracts nearly 3400 attendees each year and is one of the only state EMS conferences comparable in size to national conferences. This offers the Texas EMS for Children State Partnership an excellent opportunity to provide in-person outreach and education to EMS personnel from around the state. In addition to having a booth in the exhibit hall, we also conducted two pre-conference workshops and several educational sessions. We look forward to seeing everyone again for the 2023 conference to be held at the Austin Convention Center, November 19 – 22!



Pictured: Program Manager, Sam Vance; Program Director, Dr. Kathryn Kothari; and EMSC Advisory Committee member, Sally Snow