

# Improve Your ED's Readiness to Care for Children\*

## Equipment, Supplies, and Medications

Stock ED with appropriate-sized, easily accessible pediatric supplies and equipment for pediatric patients from newborn to adult ranges:

- Organize items logically
- Use a color-coded, weight-based, storage system
- Keep a fully stocked pediatric resuscitation cart readily accessible at all times



## Support Services for the ED

Ancillary services should have skills, equipment, and capability to provide care to pediatric patients:

- Radiology departments
  - develop protocols based on age and size of patients to reduce radiation exposure
- Clinical laboratories
  - facilitate testing for all ages of patients
  - ensure availability of microtechnology for small and limited samples
  - have transfer protocols for pediatric patients who exceed laboratory capabilities



## Competency in Pediatric Care

Ensure members of the healthcare team have the skills and knowledge to treat children of all ages and developmental stages:

- Periodically evaluate pediatric-specific competencies, including triage, medication administration, procedures, disaster preparedness, and handoff communication
  - Use observation, written tests, and/or chart reviews
    - Emergency Medicine or Pediatric Emergency Medicine board certification and pediatric emergency nursing certification is strongly encouraged.



## Administration and Coordination for Care of Children

Identify Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) to coordinate delivery and evaluation of pediatric care in the ED:  
An emergency physician and emergency nurse with demonstrated clinical competence and expertise in pediatric emergency care



## Pediatric Patient and Medication Safety

Establish a culture of safety and educate staff in pediatric-specific safety considerations:



- weigh all patients in kilograms, ideally with scales locked in kilograms
- take full set of vital signs
- use weight-based dosing
- provide for cultural sensitivity, interpreter services, and family-centered care
- implement patient identification policies
- monitor/evaluate patient safety events

## Quality and Performance Improvement (QI/PI)

Implement a QI/PI plan that includes monitoring of outcomes-based pediatric-specific indicators.

- Integrate multidisciplinary QI/PI activities with:
  - prehospital agencies
  - inpatient pediatrics
  - trauma/injury prevention programs
  - pediatric critical care
- Use the Plan, Do, Study, Act method:
  - systematically review, identify, and mitigate variances in pediatric emergency care



## Policies, Procedures and Protocols

Develop and implement age-specific policies, procedures, and protocols that also address children with special health care needs through:

- Local collaboration with regional pediatric centers
- Use of standard, evidence-based guidelines found on the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center website:  
<https://emscimprovement.center/>

Educate staff on policies and monitor compliance.

\* Based on the 2018 AAP/ACEP/ENA Joint Policy Statement, "Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department"

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