

PHYSICIAN OVERSIGHT OF PEDIATRIC CARE IN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The National Association of EMS Physicians[®] believes:

- EMS is a multi-faceted, multidisciplinary field that serves diverse populations.
 - A physician serving the role of EMS medical director must recognize the diverse patient population their EMS program serves. If the EMS medical director has knowledge or experience gaps pertaining to a specific subset of patients in the program's population, the physician should actively engage subject matter experts and other resources to ensure the EMS-related healthcare needs of those groups are appropriately and reasonably reflected in the clinical operations of the EMS program.
 - There is significant value in the EMS medical director establishing relationships with other partners in patient care including healthcare facilities, medical specialty organizations, and government and non-governmental supported entities that advocate for or support efforts to provide medical care to special populations.
- Pediatric patients have unique needs that every EMS program must ensure are appropriately and reasonably met.
- If the EMS medical director does not inherently possess knowledge and experience in pediatric-related EMS healthcare needs, they should engage with stakeholders that can provide EMS-appropriate guidance related to pediatric EMS healthcare needs.
- Ensuring pediatric EMS healthcare needs are represented in the planning of an EMS system will improve the care of children and can be accomplished by working collaboratively with the pediatric healthcare stakeholders to:
 - Identify gaps and ensure available resources to care for children,
 - Maintain a relationship with state EMS for Children infrastructure,
 - Establish and maintain pediatric specific EMS protocols, and
 - Establish quality improvement plans with pediatric specific indicators.
- Some jurisdictions may choose to develop an EMS Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator or an EMS System Pediatric Advisory Committee, based on EMS program or system needs and resources, in order to augment and advise the EMS medical director(s) for the system or for individual EMS programs.
- If designated by the EMS medical director, the role of the Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator may be met either by integrating the responsibilities of the role into an existing position, or by establishing a dedicated position, based on jurisdictional needs and resources, e.g. a shared role within a single agency or a shared resource among multiple agencies within a region.
- If formed, an EMS System Pediatric Advisory Committee should be composed of a diverse group of local EMS, emergency medicine, and pediatric stakeholders. The purpose of the committee is to be advisory to the oversight body for the EMS System, and support the EMS medical director(s) in the EMS system or jurisdiction.