

BENEFICIAL STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING PREHOSPITAL PEDIATRIC READINESS

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8/16/23

Having Available Equipment

Having the right equipment available to meet the medical needs of your pediatric patients is one of the most important pediatric readiness strategies. Ensure your agency has the right equipment for a broad range of pediatric health concerns, including the safe transport of neonates and toddlers, airway management tools for young children, sensory tools for children with special needs, and easy-to-administer medication dosage solutions. Additionally, consider the needs of children in your local community and identify any equipment needed to care for local pediatric patients.



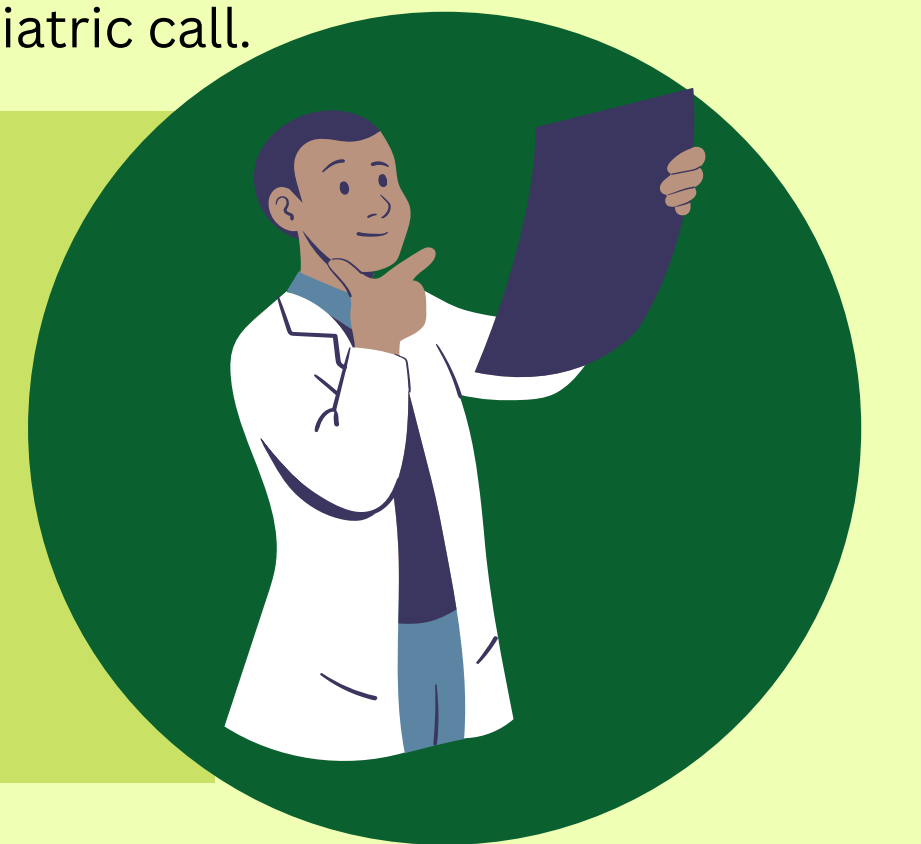
Effective Pediatric Care Education

With this low-volume, high-risk patient population, clinicians can be concerned when working with pediatric patients. Increased access to pediatric care education that clinicians prefer offers clinicians the opportunity to learn in a style that suits them, and increases clinician comfort and rediness when working with pediatrics. Personalized education, including launching education on platforms they can easily access, highlighting tools and protocols they have access to, and recommending education based on their personal needs, can make your clinicans better prepared and less stressed on the next pediatric call.



Performance Assessment

Performance assessment, an important of quality assessment and improvement, is extremely useful for understanding how EMS are performing in the field when caring for pediatric patients. Performance assessment can help you develop new and effective education and protocols to improve pediatric care by identifying where clinicians work best and where they need hep.



Child-focused Policies

Many of our protocols are focused on caring for adults. Pediatric patients present with unique needs and health concerns. Ensuring our policies and procedures meet the needs of pediatric patients, including special needs patients, is important. Consider how your EMS agency could work with the community and the state to update its standards of care for pediatric patients.



Assessing Pediatric Readiness

One of the best strategies you can take to improve your agency's ability to care for pediatrics is to strategically review your overall pediatric readiness. Pediatric readiness affects not only the individual clinician but the overall agency. Several Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) programs use many of the above strategies to tackle pediatric readiness. Identifying which combination of strategies to implement in your agency is a great place to start! You can start this journey by reviewing the [EMS Agency Checklist](#) and [Toolkit](#) available from the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center. You can also check out resources developed by other PECC programs out of Massachusetts, Tennessee, Montana, and North Carolina to name a few.

