

Check Your Pediatric Preparedness

National Pediatric Readiness Project

www.PediatricReadiness.org



Check your preparedness and compliance with the published guidelines by completing this simple checklist that includes equipment, medications and other recommendations that are made in the guidelines.

**Care of Children in the Emergency Department:
Guidelines for Preparedness
Check Your Pediatric Preparedness**

I. Administration and Coordination of the Emergency Department

- Physician Coordinator
- Nursing Coordinator

II. Physicians and Other Practitioners

- Qualified physicians
- Qualified nurses
- Staff competency evaluations

III. Quality Improvement

- Components of the process interface with QI or PI plans:
 - Out-of- hospital
 - Emergency department
 - Trauma
 - Inpatient pediatrics
 - Pediatric critical care
 - Hospital-wide QI or PI activities
- Minimum components of the process
 - Identifying indicators of good outcome
 - Collecting and analyzing data to discover variances
 - Defining a plan for improvement
 - Evaluating or measuring the success of the QI or PI process.
- Mechanism to monitor professional education and staffing

IV. Policies, Procedures, and Protocols

- Developed and implemented
- Staff educated
- Monitored for compliance

Policies, procedures, and protocols to include (but not limited to):

- Child maltreatment (physical and sexual abuse, sexual assault, and neglect)
- Consent (including situations in which a parent is not immediately available)
- Death in the ED
- Do not resuscitate orders
- Illness and injury triage
- Sedation and analgesia
- Immunization status
- Mental health emergencies
- Physical restraint of pediatric patients

- Family issues, including:
 - Education of the patient, family, and regular caregivers
 - Discharge planning and instruction
 - Family presence during care
- Communication with patient's primary health care provider
- Transfers necessary for definitive care

V. Support Services

- Transport plan to get children to definitive care
 - Incorporate the following pediatric specialty referral resources in the transport plan:
 - Medical and surgical intensive care
 - Trauma
 - Re-implantation of severed digits or limbs
 - Burns
 - Psychiatric emergencies
 - Perinatal emergencies
 - Child maltreatment
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Assault
- Radiology capability to image children of all ages
- Laboratory capability to serve children of all ages
 - Perform tests
 - Obtain samples
 - Micro technique for small or limited sample size

VI. Equipment, Supplies, and Medications

- Storage method and accessibility
- Method to accurately determine equipment size and drug dosage for children of various ages without the need to manually calculated (length-based resuscitation tape or pre-calculated drug systems)

Medications

- Resuscitation medications
 - Atropine
 - Adenosine
 - Calcium chloride
 - Dextrose
 - Epinephrine (1:1000, 1:10 000)
 - Lidocaine
 - Naloxone hydrochloride
 - Sodium bicarbonate (4.2%)

- Other Drug Groups
 - Activated charcoal
 - Analgesics
 - Antibiotics (parenteral)
 - Anticonvulsants
 - Antidotes (common antidotes should be accessible to the ED)
 - Antipyretics
 - Bronchodilators
 - Corticosteroids
 - Inotropic agents
 - Neuromuscular blocking agents
 - Oxygen
 - Sedatives
- Appropriate dosing easily identified

Equipment

Monitoring equipment

- Cardiorespiratory monitor with strip recorder
- Defibrillator with pediatric and adult paddles (4.5 cm and 8 cm) or corresponding adhesive pads
- Pediatric and adult monitor electrodes
- Pulse oximeter with sensors and probe sizes for children
- Thermometer or rectal probe
- Sphygmomanometer
- Doppler blood pressure device
- Blood pressure cuffs (arm and thigh cuffs)
 - Neonatal
 - Infant
 - Child
 - Adult
- Method to monitor endotracheal tube and placement (CO₂ detector or device; esophageal detection bulb or syringe for children ≥ 20 kg)
- Stethoscope

Airway Management

- Portable oxygen regulators and canisters
- Clear oxygen masks (standard and nonrebreathing)
 - Neonatal
 - Infant
 - Child
 - Adult
- Oropharyngeal airways (sizes 0–5)
- Nasopharyngeal airways (12F through 30F)

- Bag-valve-mask resuscitator, self-inflating (450- and 1000-mL sizes)
- Nasal cannulae
 - Child
 - Adult
- Endotracheal tubes
 - Uncuffed (2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, and 6.0 mm)
 - Cuffed (6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, and 9.0 mm)
- Stylets
 - Infant
 - Pediatric
 - Adult
- Laryngoscope handle
 - Pediatric
 - Adult
- Laryngoscope blades
 - Straight or Miller (0, 1, 2, and 3)
 - Macintosh (2 and 3)
- Magill forceps
 - Pediatric
 - Adult
- Nasogastric tubes/feeding tubes (5F through 18F)
- Suction catheters—flexible (6F, 8F, 10F, 12F, 14F, and 16F)
- Yankauer suction tip
- Bulb syringe
- Chest tubes (8F through 40F)
- Laryngeal mask airway (Sizes 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, and 5)

Vascular access

- Butterfly needles (19–25 Gauge)
- Catheter-over-needle devices (14–24 Gauge)
- Rate limiting infusion device and tubing
- Intraosseous needles (may be satisfied by standard bone needle aspiration needles)
- Arm boards
- Intravenous fluid and blood warmers
- Umbilical vein catheters (Size 5F feeding tube may be used)
- Seldinger technique vascular access kit

Miscellaneous

- Infant and standard scales
- Infant formula and oral rehydrating solutions
- Heating source (may be met by infrared lamps or overhead warmer)
- Towel rolls, blanket rolls, or equivalent

- Pediatric restraining devices
- Resuscitation board
- Sterile linen
- Length-based resuscitation tape or precalculated drug or equipment list based on patient weight

Specialized pediatric trays

- Tube thoracotomy with water seal drainage capability
- Lumbar puncture
- Pediatric urinary catheters
- Obstetric pack
- Newborn kit
- Umbilical vessel cannulation supplies
- Venous cutdown
- Needle cricothyrotomy tray
- Surgical airway kit (may include a tracheostomy tray or a surgical cricothyrotomy tray)

Fracture management

- Cervical immobilization equipment
- Extremity splints
- Femur splints
- Medical photography capability

Quality indicators

- Regular periodic review of drugs and equipment
- Monitor of expiration dates of items
- Replace used items