Improving Your ED's Readiness to Care for Children

**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.

**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.
- Pediatric board certification and pediatric emergency nursing certification is strongly encouraged.

**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.

**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

**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

**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

**Policies, Procedures and Protocols**

Develop and implement age-specific policies, procedures, and protocols that also address children with special healthcare 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/](https://emscimprovement.center/)

**Educat staff on policies and monitor compliance.**

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