



The Pony Express

Headline News

EMSC Introduced to Hundreds, Conducts Education Analysis at Texas EMS Conference

Hundreds of prehospital providers stopped by the EMSC booth at the Texas EMS Conference on November 22 and 23 to find out what the program is all about. Co-Investigator [Manish Shah, MD](#), Program Manager [Tony Gilchrest](#), and Lucas Isenhardt, an academic associate from the University of Houston, were on hand to introduce the [EMSC State Partnership](#) and to talk with EMS professionals from all over Texas. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to increase awareness about the unique challenges of emergency medical care for children and the EMSC initiatives to ensure that prehospital providers have the tools and resources they need to appropriately manage critically ill and injured children.

While they were there, many EMTs and paramedics took the time to participate in the EMSC Education Needs Assessment survey. The information collected in this important study will help the Partnership to identify specific areas for pediatric training, preferred methods of learning, and specific barriers to quality pediatric continuing education in the different regions of the state.

Because of the relative infrequency of providing care for critically ill or injured children—and the absolute necessity of getting it right when we do—continuing education in this area of prehospital practice is essential. The EMSC State Partnership is dedicated to improving the effectiveness of pediatric emergency medical care through programs that will improve the quality of and access to pediatric training and education.

Texas provides many challenges to any statewide quality improvement program in EMS. Communication and collaboration is essential. Thanks to everyone who visited the EMSC booth in Fort Worth for taking an interest in helping to make Texas a model for the emergency medical care of children. For more information or to send us your comments just drop us a note in the [Mail Pouch](#).

State Partnership Update

The EMSC State Partnership is continuing to move forward in its efforts to improve the emergency medical care for children in Texas. Our efforts this year have

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Best Practices

A message from the EMSC
Program Manager

In August I had the opportunity to speak briefly to the RAC Chairs about the new Emergency Medical Service for Children State Partnership grant. Since that time, I have spoken to most of the agencies around the state and have learned a great deal about the diversity of our EMS providers in Texas and about their major concerns regarding care of pediatric patients.

Overwhelmingly, the message I am getting is the need for more pediatric education, and I am learning about some of the challenges faced by many of our agencies in gaining access to quality educational programs. I have also heard a number of innovative ways of providing pediatric training and QA/QI initiatives that are being employed by forward thinking leaders in the field.

It is our hope to be able to develop a collection of best-practices that can be shared with agencies across the state as well as to work together with organizations in each of the 22 regions to help find workable solutions to their unique education needs or any other issues they may have concerning emergency care for children.

In order to achieve this, we need your help. [Send](#) in your stories about what works well and what challenges you have in regards to pediatric education and training, protocols and medical direction, pediatric equipment needs, special pediatric transport challenges, or quality improvement programs in your agency or region. We will compile this information to create a resource database on the [EMSC State Partnership Texas website](#).

Be sure and let us know if we can include your contact information on the database, or if you prefer to remain anonymous.

Working together, we can achieve great things in Texas!

Tony



Mail Pouch

EMSC State Partnership, TX

Check out the new [EMSC State Partnership website](#) at
www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

The Pony Express

Update

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been focused on creating alliances and developing the networks that will be necessary to complete our [performance measures](#) and to achieve excellence in both prehospital and emergency center pediatric emergency medical care throughout the state. The list of active partners and collaborators continues to grow as more and more professionals and their institutions across many different disciplines make the commitment to work together toward common goals of reducing child and adolescent morbidity and mortality from critical injury and illness. In addition to our original [partners](#), the following organizations have offered their support to the EMSC State Partnership, Texas:

Driscoll Children's Hospital	Carrollton Fire Department
Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital	American Medical Response of Houston (AMR)
Texas Hospital Association (THA)	Texas EMS Trauma and Acute Care Foundation (TETAF)
Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT)	Texas Ambulance Association (TAA)
Texas Parent to Parent (P2P)	National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE)
Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)	
Houston Community College System EMS	Dallas BioTel

Another important part of developing a strong EMSC program in Texas is creating awareness and ensuring that all stakeholders have the opportunity to be involved in the process. To that end, the EMSC State Partnership office has been contacting EMS agencies around the state to explain the program and to update the EMS agency data base. This information will be used to disseminate information, to facilitate networking between agencies, and to administer surveys and questionnaires for the purpose of developing the program around the needs of the front-line personnel and assure that the State Partnership is continuing to meet the [EMSC Performance Measures](#).

Reception to the EMSC idea has been tremendous. Many of the EMS agency directors, coordinators, and staff have expressed great interest in the program and have offered their support. In addition, the opportunity to talk with each agency has not only provided valuable insight into the pediatric-specific needs of agencies around the state, but has also opened many doors to possible solutions through information sharing and collaboration. The professionalism and creativity exhibited by many of the EMS leaders we have spoken with clearly highlights their dedication to providing the best possible pediatric emergency medical care.

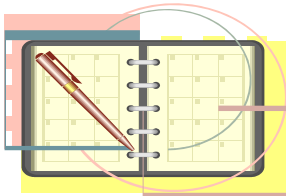
Other efforts to improve EMSC awareness and provide a mechanism for individual involvement in the development and administration of the EMSC priorities include the publishing of The Pony Express and of the new [EMSC State Partnership Website](#). The goal for the website is to provide up-to-date information and access to quality improvement resources and pediatric continuing education. In addition, it is our hope that the Pony Express will become an interactive forum for interagency collaboration and information sharing on pediatric issues in EMS. The EMSC State Partnership always welcomes and encourages your stories, advice, questions, or comments in the [Mail Pouch](#).

Final Thought

Communication works for those who work at it.

John Powell

Upcoming Events



- December 17, 2009: EAC Teleconference, 2:00 - 3:00 pm.
Call-in information forthcoming.
- January 28, 2010: EMSC Stakeholder Teleconference, 2:00 - 3:00 pm. Call in information forthcoming.

Mark Your Calendar