



The Pony Express

Headline News

EMSC Workgroups Setting the Pace

In the last issue of the Pony Express, the [EMSC Performance Measures](#) were discussed. Specifically, the performance measures include the assurance of the availability on-line and off-line pediatric medical direction, essential pediatric supplies and equipment on ambulances, pediatric continuing education, pediatric transfer guidelines and agreements at hospitals, and a system of recognition for hospitals capable of stabilizing and managing critically ill children similar to the trauma hospital recognition system already in place.

In order to better focus on some of these measures, the [EMSC Advisory Committee \(EAC\)](#) established four working groups who began meeting by teleconference in January. The current workgroups include On-line Medical Direction, Off-line Medical Direction, Equipment on Ambulances, and Continuing Education, and are each facilitated and coordinated through the EMSC office. The teams are composed of members of the EAC and Stakeholders, with Dr. Manish Shah, Co-Director for the EMSC State Partnership, and the EMSC Program Manager, Tony Gilchrest, serving on all four.

The On-line Medical Direction workgroup includes Dr. Halim Henes in Dallas and Dr. Paul Sirbaugh in Houston. Dr. Sirbaugh also brings his expertise to the Off-line Medical Direction team along with Dr. Philip Ewing in Dallas, Dr. Sujit Iyer in Austin and Dr. Charles Macias, EMSC Program Director in Houston. On the Equipment workgroup are Jane Guerrero in Austin, and EMSC Family Representative, Elaine Hime. Continuing Education is represented by Chris Malvik of Carrollton, Sally Snow in Fort Worth, and Janet Pointer in Corpus Christi.

Following the recommendations of the EAC and Stakeholders, these workgroups will be the driving force for achieving the EMSC Performance Measures in Texas, setting the pace for quality improvement in pediatric emergency medical care across the state. The EMSC State Partnership invites your participation in this process. Ideally, each workgroup would consist of stakeholders from across the state representing a variety of disciplines. If you are interested in helping to shape the future of pediatric emergency medical care in Texas, or if you have a particular interest in one or more of these performance measures and would like to get involved, please drop your contact information in the [Mail Pouch](#) or call 832-824-6028 for details.

(See State Partnership Update on Page 2)



Mail Pouch

EMSC State Partnership, TX

Check out the new EMSC State Partnership website at www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc

Best Practices

Help Prevent Head Injuries: Sponsor a Bike Helmet Giveaway

You often see children who are seriously injured from biking, rollerblading, or skateboarding accidents. Many of these injuries could have prevented if the child had worn a helmet. Because you know the value of prevention, the Texas Medical Association (TMA) invites you to join in and put a helmet on the heads of children in your community.

TMA's Hard Hats for Little Heads bicycle helmet giveaway program makes it easy for you to provide free helmets for children. Plus, TMA offers everything you need for a successful giveaway, from helmets and educational materials to publicity materials.

Emergency physician Craig Manifold, DO, has sponsored several Hard Hats events over the years. Dr. Manifold, medical director for the San Antonio Fire Department, is a firm believer in the program. He has taught many parents and children in his community the importance of wearing a helmet and wearing it correctly. "The program is so easy and rewarding," says Dr. Manifold. "If we prevented even one injury, it's worth it."

How the program works

TMA provides free helmets, based on the amount you purchase. For example, when you purchase 50 helmets for \$367.50 (\$7.35 apiece including shipping), TMA will give you 50 additional helmets free. So for as little as \$3.68 per child, you can get 100 helmets to give away to children in your community.

TMA also provides free educational materials in English and Spanish. Items include brochures, posters, pledge sheets, banners and more. Check out the [Web site](#) for a complete listing of materials.

While events are great any time of year, consider these key opportunities:

- Bike Safety Month (May)
- EMS Week (May)
- Brain Injury Awareness Month (October)

To find out how you can sponsor a Hard Hats event, contact Tammy Wishard, TMA's outreach coordinator, at (512) 370-1470 or tammy.wishard@texmed.org. Hard Hats for Little Heads is funded through a generous grant from the TMA Foundation.

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State Partnership Update

The Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership, Texas is winding up its first year at Baylor College of Medicine, and it has been incredible to see the commitment and dedication from partners and stakeholders throughout the state to improving the quality and availability of pediatric emergency medical care. The list is exhaustive, but on behalf of the millions of children in Texas who place their trust, and their lives, in our hands, thank you.

There are a number of exciting things happening as a result of all of that hard work, and our efforts are beginning to reap benefits for pediatric emergency care in Texas. Here are just a few examples:

- EMSC will be taking part in a one-of-a-kind pediatric trauma symposium sponsored by [Memorial Hermann Life Flight](#), in coordination with the Houston Fire Department and Texas Children's Hospital, aimed at bringing experts and practitioners together to develop a consensus on pre-hospital pediatric trauma care in the South East Texas region.
- A number of agencies have submitted their pediatric protocols. We are in the process of designing a model through which protocols can be reviewed and shared as a resource for EMS agencies and medical directors across the state. NOTE: Agencies' identities will not be identified in the review process or final resource document. Please continue to send in your protocols to the [Mail Pouch](#).
- EMSC is working with partners and stakeholders to investigate better ways to disseminate pediatric continuing education, provide access to pediatric on-line medical direction, and obtain essential pediatric supplies and equipment.
- The Continuing Education Workgroup is finalizing a training module on the assessment and management of children with special health care needs. This is a hands-on, train-the-trainer program that will prepare students for the unique challenges of assessment and care for the more than one million special needs children in the State of Texas, including common pathophysiology, special equipment and assistive devices, and expert advice from local parents of children with special health care needs from the [Parent to Parent](#) (P2P) organization. The first class is scheduled in early May in the Corpus Christi area. We are looking in other areas of the state for future classes. If you are interested in hosting this program in your region, drop a note in the [Mail Pouch](#).
- Planning is currently underway for a state-wide celebration of National EMSC Day on Wednesday, May 19, 2010. Among other things, the EMSC State Partnership, Texas, in cooperation with partners and stakeholders across the state, would like to extend a small token of our appreciation. We will provide a special lunch celebration for one EMS crew/station who has displayed outstanding care for a child in an emergency medical or trauma event. In addition, a plaque will be presented to the EMS or fire station recognizing the crew as champions in the emergency care of children in Texas. Nominations for the EMSC Crew of the Year should be sent along with a brief (500 words or less) description of the event/s and why you feel this crew deserves special honor and recognition to:

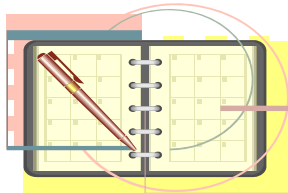
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Final Thought

"A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child."

--Unknown

Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendar

- February 24 - 26: [GETAC Meeting](#) in Austin.
- March 25, 2010: EMSC Advisory Committee teleconference, 2:00 - 3:00 pm. Details to follow.
- May 16 - 22: National EMS Week
- May 19: National EMSC Day