

EMSC State Partnership,



The Pony Express

Headline News

EMSC to Begin Surveys in April Data to Provide Focus and Direction

Final preparations are now underway to begin the EMSC performance measure surveys for the 2010-2011 grant year. Data collected will be vital to the future of pediatric emergency medical care in Texas. Information from these measures will provide guidance to the EMSC State Partnership as well as to EMS leaders and stakeholders on areas for improvement in the provision of care for critically ill and injured children. In addition, the data will allow us to show what has already been accomplished and what EMS professionals in Texas are doing well so that benchmarks can be established for others to follow.

Specifically, the surveys will be looking at three key aspects of prehospital emergency care: the availability of on-line pediatric medical direction, pediatric protocols, and essential pediatric equipment. In addition, hospitals will be surveyed to measure the percentage of hospitals that have written inter-facility transfer guidelines and/or agreements that include a process for initiating a transfer, selecting the appropriate facility, selecting the appropriate level of transfer services, obtaining informed consent, and assuring that plans are in place for transferring patient medical records and personal belongings.

Similar surveys conducted in 2007-2008 indicated that nearly 40% of both BLS and ALS units in Texas lacked access to on-line medical direction. This is especially concerning in light of the fact that only 43% of BLS units reported having any written pediatric protocols, and 14% of ALS units reported having no written protocols available at the scene. In addition, only 17% of BLS units and 34% of ALS units reported having all of the recommended essential pediatric equipment and supplies.

For hospitals, 21% reported meeting all of the desired components of written inter-facility transfer guidelines while about half of those responding had inter-facility transfer agreements.

It is important to note that the response rate for the 2007-2008 surveys was low, so it is difficult to get an accurate picture of what the needs really are in Texas. Therefore, in order to assure that our efforts are appropriately focused, it is essential that questionnaires be completed. Beginning in April, a stratified sample of EMS agencies will be invited to participate in an on-line survey, and hospitals will be contacted by phone. Please take this opportunity to help Texas set new standards for excellence in pediatric emergency medical care.

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EMSC Crew of the Year Nominations Now Being Accepted

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 or station who has displayed outstanding care for a child in an emergency medical or trauma event, demonstrated exceptional effort in the development of pediatric training or quality improvement programs, or was instrumental in planning and conducting creative injury prevention programs.

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 can be dropped in the Mail Pouch along with a brief (500 words or less) description of the event or program and why you feel this crew deserves special honor and recognition, or sent to:

Tony Gilchrest Program Manager EMSC State Partnership, Texas adgilchr@texaschildrens.org

The Deadline for nominations is April 15, 2010.



2009 EMSC Crew of the Year



Mail Pouch

EMSC State Partnership, TX www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc

To remove your name from our mailing list, please click here.

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State Partnership Update

In February, EMSC visited with several of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (GETAC) committees, the Regional Advisory Council Chairs, and the Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) to provide a brief update and to elicit feedback on some specific proposals for improving pediatric emergency medical care in Texas. In addition, we are continuing to talk with EMS professionals individually, asking for their input as well. In order to provide meaningful programs and services to EMS providers across the state, we believe that collaboration and cooperation with EMS leaders and stakeholders is vital. The enthusiasm demonstrated about the EMSC program and the genuine concern expressed for providing EMS professionals with the tools and resources necessary for the appropriate care of critically ill and injured children is evidence that Texas is serious about providing the highest quality of emergency medical service.

The EMSC performance measures are based on recommendations in the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) 2006 report, <u>Emergency Care for Children: Growing Pains</u>. This report highlights ongoing gaps across the nation in on-line and off-line pediatric medical direction, pediatric-specific equipment and supplies, pediatric education and training for EMS personnel, hospital transfer procedures for critically ill and injured children, coordination and regionalization of care for pediatric patients, research in pediatric pre-hospital emergency care, and emergency preparedness for children involved in disasters. The surveys discussed in Headline News are intended not only to help us see where we stand in Texas on some of these issues, but also to help us make sure that we are moving in the right direction. With the help and support of EMSC Partners and Stakeholders, and in collaboration with DSHS, GETAC committees, the RACs, and many others, the Partnership is working to address each of the IOM recommendations, keeping in mind the needs specific to Texas and particular to the unique and diverse situations of individual regions within the state.

Here are a few highlights of EMSC proposals and projects:

- The EMSC State Partnership has presented the idea of having regional pediatric-specific on-line medical control available as a resource for EMS providers who either do not currently have a regular source of on-line medical control, or who feel that they may benefit by having pediatric emergency specialists available.
- The disaster committee has made tremendous strides in making sure that plans and resources are in place to provide immediate and effective response to disasters in Texas. EMSC proposed that pediatric emergency specialists be identified as a ready and accountable resource to the regional Medical Director assigned to the incident.
- Pediatric protocols are pouring in from agencies all over the state in response to our proposal to develop a pediatric protocol repository that will provide agencies with a comprehensive resource for the development of their own pediatric treatment guidelines. This is an exciting project that has attracted a lot of interest, and we will be working diligently to get the repository ready as soon as possible. If you would be interested in helping with this project, drop a note in the <u>Mail Pouch</u>.

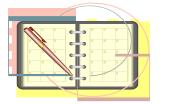
Texas is a large and diverse state. While it may be difficult or impossible to develop and implement any one program for improving our readiness to respond to and care for critically ill and injured children, working together we can create variations on a theme that will help your agency or region be better prepared. However, in order to do so, we need to hear from you. Please call the EMSC office or drop a message in the <u>Mail Pouch</u> and let us know about your pediatric needs and concerns.

Final Thought

"If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants."

Isaac Newton

Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendar

- March 25, 2010: EMSC Advisory Committee teleconference, 2:00 - 3:00 pm. Details to follow.
- April 15, 2010: Pediatric Trauma Symposium—call EMSC at 832-824-6028 for details or send inquiries to the <u>Mail Pouch</u>.
- May 16 22: National EMS Week
- May 19: National EMSC Day