



The Pony Express

Headline News

EMSC State Partnership Rolls Out Pediatric Continuing Education Program With Extra Special Class

The EMSC State Partnership Texas is proud to announce the inaugural course offering of the Emergency Medical Services for Children Continuing Education Program. Working in partnership with [Driscoll Children's Hospital](#), [Texas Parent to Parent \(TxP2P\)](#), and [Del Mar College-Emergency Medical Services](#), EMSC presented *Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs*. This course is a one-of-a-kind interactive educational program designed to provide EMS professionals with cognitive knowledge and practical, hands-on training to prepare them to handle a wide variety of emergency situations involving children with special needs.

While the course offers an opportunity to develop the technical knowledge and skills necessary for confident and competent care of children with special health care needs in the out-of-hospital emergency setting, its most important and unique feature is the focus on patient- and family-centered care facilitated by the integration of special needs families into every aspect of the course. Jeanine Pinner and Debbie Wiederhold of TxP2P have been involved with the development of the program from its inception and, along with parents from the local area P2P network, was actively involved in the class through a facilitated panel and audience discussion as well as having an active role assisting course instructors in the practical skills stations. In addition, a special presentation was given by Terri Sowder of [Coastal Bend Autism Advocacy](#), an organization dedicated to helping autistic children, as well as families and educators of autistic children.

Bringing together healthcare professionals from EMS and emergency/critical care nursing disciplines with special needs parents and their children provides a unique perspective on the challenges and common misperceptions of emergency assessment and management of children with special health care needs. The EMSC State Partnership is excited about this course and we are making plans now to offer the class in a different area of the state about once every quarter.

A very special thanks goes out to Chris Malvik, LP—Carrollton Fire Department; Sally Snow, RN—Cook Children's Medical Center, Janet Pointer, RN—Driscoll Children's Hospital, Debbie Wiederhold—TxP2P, and Jeanine Pinner—TxP2P for all of their hard work and dedication in putting this course together. There is no better way to improve emergency care for children across Texas than through sharing one's experience, talent and skill with others. (See State Partnership Update, Pg. 2)

Best Practices

Mom Praises Professionalism and Family Centered Care of New Braunfels Fire Department EMS Station #3



Bobby

Story by Cheryl Kloss

Most of the citizens of New Braunfels probably have no idea how dedicated and well equipped their Emergency Medical Service personnel are. When I say well equipped, I do not mean just the physical medical equipment one expects to arrive during their moment of need, but the equally important but often forgotten attributes such as courtesy and communication.

Our child has had multiple transports by the New Braunfels EMS Station #3 crews due to a rare, life limiting movement disorder which causes severe pain and life threatening medical complications. The EMTs are obviously highly skilled technically, but their willingness to listen to us while making their assessments, moving him for transport, and providing medical support has eased his suffering during these episodes. Their willingness to transport to the children's hospital best equipped to meet his needs has ultimately sped up his care, and lessened his pain despite inconvenience to them. I believe all of these actions have also lessened the overall trauma we as a family have experienced.

Equally as important, at times when we have made the dreaded 911 call, the team has arrived, and then he has stabilized to the point we feel comfortable staying at home...they have left empty handed, always letting us know they are willing to return again when the need arises. My hat is off to the gentlemen of New Braunfels EMS Station #3.



EMSC State Partnership, TX

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State Partnership Update

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Education. In addition to *Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs*, the EMSC State Partnership is currently preparing a variety of pediatric-specific course offerings for the EMSC CE Program. In an effort to be responsive to the individual needs of each region, the Partnership is asking Regional Advisory Councils (RAC) and EMS response agencies to identify their "wish list" for pediatric training. Our initial course offerings are being developed in response to the information gathered from the Pediatric Continuing Education survey conducted at the 2009 [Texas EMS Conference](#), a survey of members of the RAC Chairs last summer, and the most current literature on EMS education and training needs and methods. Our goal is to provide at least one free pediatric CE course in each of the Trauma Service Areas over the two-year program period. In addition, EMSC is currently investigating the development of an online continuing education portal through which high-quality pediatric CE could be distributed at little or no cost to Texas EMS personnel.

Pediatric Protocol Resource. Work is continuing on the pediatric protocol resource project. We are now in the final stages of the program's development and we are currently seeking volunteers to serve on protocol review teams. Ideally, each team will consist of one or more professionals from each of the following disciplines: (1) a pediatric emergency medicine physician, (2) an agency medical director, (3) an EMS supervisor/coordinator, and (4) an emergency/trauma nurse. Team members will be asked to review protocols on one topic about every two months (i.e., Asthma or Respiratory Distress), communicating with each other via phone, e-mail, or face-to-face as needed to provide the EMSC Protocol Workgroup with a report of their review along with supporting literature and other documentation. The Protocol Workgroup, then, will compile and evaluate the reports and address any questions or concerns to the Review Team. The final review will then be posted on a dedicated webpage on the EMSC website.

While the process appears long and tedious, we believe that it is vitally important to provide a thorough and complete review that is evidence-based when possible and consensus-based when evidence is lacking. We are also aware that our volunteer reviewers are busy professionals and that it would be unrealistic to expect many hours of time commitment each month and still emerge with the highest quality product. The EMSC office will be available to team members to coordinate resources such as tele- or web-conferencing and arranging for consultation with subject matter experts or specialists as requested. It is our sincere hope that this program will be ongoing and will continue to evaluate and review protocols to assure that the Texas EMSC Protocol Resource is always on the forefront of pediatric emergency medicine.

Research. A vital component in developing protocols for best practice is research. [Dr. Manish Shah](#), Co-Investigator for the EMSC State Partnership, recently submitted a proposal for an [EMSC Targeted Issues Grant](#) for research specifically aimed at the development and implementation of an evidence-based protocol. If the grant is awarded, this project will be a multi-site research endeavor involving the collaborative efforts of EMSC partners in Austin, Dallas, and Houston. Grant partners include Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital; City of Houston Fire Department EMS; Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas; City of Austin/Travis County EMS; Hospital Physicians in Clinical Research; University of Texas Southwestern, Children's Medical Center Dallas, and BioTel EMS. This represents a significant step forward in pediatric prehospital emergency medical care in Texas.

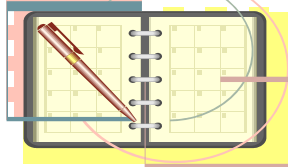
On-line medical direction. In response to interest expressed by a number of EMS providers and industry leaders in the idea of having regional pediatric on-line medical direction available as a resource, the State Partnership is currently seeking information from key stakeholders to determine the infrastructure requirements, cost considerations, and clinical implications of such a service. In addition, we are reviewing best practices from other states who have implemented regional on-line medical direction to see how their systems work and in what ways they can be adapted to the Texas EMS and Trauma System. While it is much too early to provide any kind of detailed plan, the Partnership remains excited about the possibility of helping to assure access to on-line pediatric medical direction for every EMS provider and first responder 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Final Thought

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

[Helen Keller](#)

Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendar

- August 18-20: [GETAC Committee Meetings](#), Austin, TX.
- September 23: EMSC Advisory Committee Teleconference: Details to follow.
- October 7: EMSC CE Course; *Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs*, North Central Texas RAC