

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas



Vol. 2, Issue 7, September 2010

Headline News

EMSC State Partnership Reaches Milestone in Texas EMS Surveys, Learns More than Data Alone Will Show

The EMSC State Partnership is proud to announce that, for the first time in Texas, we have achieved a completed response rate of 80% on the EMS ambulance provider and first responder agency survey. This could not have happened without the help and support of many organizations and individuals around the state concerned with improving the emergency care for children. A very special thank you to everyone who responded to the survey as well as all of those who made phone calls and distributed e-mail messages on behalf of EMSC. Included are the members of the EMSC Advisory Committee, individuals in the EMSC Stakeholder's group, Regional Advisory Council Chairs and Executive Directors, and members of the [Texas EMS Trauma and Acute Care Foundation \(TETAF\)](#).

Data collected in the EMS surveys will be analyzed in the coming weeks and the information gained will help to identify gaps and trends in pediatric equipment carried on ambulances as well as the availability and use of on-line medical control and written protocols for critically ill or injured pediatric patients. This will be instrumental in guiding EMSC programs in Texas and in our efforts to garner support necessary to assure that EMS agencies and prehospital professionals are well prepared to provide safe, effective, timely, patient-centered, efficient, and equitable pediatric emergency medical care. Results of the survey will be posted on the [EMSC website](#) in late fall.

While the data is important, the State Partnership has learned much more from preparing for and conducting the 2010 EMSC survey than the data alone could ever show. For example, telephone conversations held with hundreds of EMS professionals in many different areas of the state provided a real sense of the common concerns in pediatric emergency preparedness as well as the vast differences in resources, response and transport times, and operational or system design. The importance of listening to the concerns and advice of the people on the front lines cannot be overstated.

It quickly became evident that the vast majority of providers in Texas, from major metropolitan services to frontier first responders, have the earnest desire to continually improve their pediatric readiness. Even among those agencies that have been identified as having exemplary pediatric quality improvement programs, there is a palpable level of respect for and discomfort with providing emergency care for the sickest and smallest pediatric patients. This has challenged the State Partnership and the EMS community to work together to find better ways to deliver meaningful pediatric continuing education in every region of the state, to develop new

(See EMSC Survey: Lessons Learned, Pg. 2)

Best Practices

Educational Module to Enhance Prehospital Knowledge of Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physicians



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An exciting new project is underway with national experts in pediatric emergency medicine and emergency medical services (EMS) to develop an on line educational module for pediatric emergency physicians wishing to improve their knowledge of EMS and the field of prehospital care. Dr. Manish Shah, an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and the Baylor College of Medicine, serves as the Principal Investigator of the project and was able to obtain funding from the Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital ([Table 1](#)). The educational module will be available online and will focus on the EMS issues relevant to the care of children but will include a broad base of topics in prehospital care ([Table 2](#)). The goal of the program is to provide much needed education in EMS and prehospital care for Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) fellows in training, as well as for practicing pediatricians and pediatric emergency physicians. The EMS for Children National Resource Center will also have a link to this program and will devote staff to its dissemination. This project is expected to roll out by spring 2011.

(See tables on Page 3)



Mail Pouch

EMSC State Partnership, TX

www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc

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EMSC Survey: Lessons Learned (continued from page 1)

programs and partnerships in order to provide essential pediatric resources to every EMS provider when and where they are needed, and to foster collaborative relationships with community leaders, health care and child advocates, and concerned families to ensure that local EMS systems are supported by and responsive to local communities.

Upon reaching our EMSC survey response goal, the [National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center \(NEDARC\)](#) sent a message that stated that Texas had always been their default example of a state that would have a hard time reaching 80%, and now Texas will probably be the default example of a state where achieving that goal is difficult, but possible when there is good teamwork. While data collection is an important part of our grant requirements and this is an achievement in its own right, the more important lesson learned is that the seemingly impossible can be accomplished when we work together.

State Partnership Update

Education. Planning has begun for an EMSC Pediatric Continuing Education Program event to be held in El Paso in early December. EMSC is working in partnership with Border [RAC \(I\)](#), [The Children's Hospital at Providence](#)—Providence Memorial Hospital, and the [El Paso Fire Department](#) to put together an exciting and informative day of training that will address local educational need.

Continuing education classes are now being scheduled for 2011. EMSC will be visiting one region each month to provide an opportunity for training. In order to have the most impact with a limited number of classes, we are targeting EMS educators and agency leaders within the region with the goal of providing information that can be taken back to their communities. Every class offered will be coordinated with regional leadership and tailored to meet local need. For more information about the EMSC Pediatric Continuing Education Program or to schedule a class, drop a note in the [Mail Pouch](#) or call Tony Gilchrest at 832-824-6028.

Pediatric Protocol Resource. Two protocol review teams are in place and the first set of pediatric protocols is now being reviewed. Team 1 is comparing protocols and conducting a literature review on the topic of the prehospital management of penetrating trauma. Team 2 will receive a similar set of protocols early next week. Completed team reviews will be sent to a Protocol Workgroup at the EMSC Office to be compiled and formatted for posting on the EMSC website. Reviewers will be trained in the use of Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) literature appraisal tools and project oversight will be conducted by [Dr. Charles Macias](#).

The EMSC Pediatric Protocol Review is not intended to replace protocols that are currently in use or to usurp the discretion of the physician medical director responsible for their development and implementation. Neither are they intended to imply that the EMSC State Partnership is endorsing or intends to endorse a single state-wide protocol in Texas. The sole purpose of this review is to provide the best possible evidence-based resource to enable practitioners to make informed decisions in the development of pediatric protocols that are most appropriate for their local EMS system.

Pediatric CE Opportunities

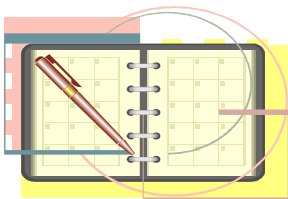
- EMSC State Partnership's "Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs" is headed to the North Central Texas RAC on Thursday, October 7. For more information, drop a note in the [Mail Pouch](#), or call Tony Gilchrest at 832-824-6028.
- Check out this fantastic opportunity for free CE from our friends at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital:
Pediatric EMS Airway Training
Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital-TMC
6411 Fannin • Ground Floor Robertson Pavilion #175
Contact Madelyn Jurek at 713.704.6160 or madelyn.jurek@memorialhermann.org

Final Thought

Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.

Vincent Van Gogh

Upcoming Events



- October 7: EMSC CE Course; Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs, [North Central Texas RAC](#)
- October 28: EMSC Stakeholder's Teleconference: Details to follow
- November 3: EMSC EAC Annual Meeting in San Antonio

Mark Your Calendar

Educational Module to Enhance Prehospital Knowledge of
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physicians

Table 1: Steering Committee Members	
Manish I. Shah, MD (PI) Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics Section of Emergency Medicine Baylor College of Medicine Texas Children’s Hospital Kathleen M. Adelgais, MD, MPH Associate Professor of Pediatrics University of Colorado, Denver Denver Children’s Hospital Dena R. Brownstein, MD Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine University of Washington Seattle Children’s Hospital Division of Emergency Medicine George L. Foltin, MD Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine New York University School of Medicine NYU Langone Medical Center/ Bellevue Hospital Center Department of Pediatrics Division of Emergency Medicine Halim Hennes, MD, MS Professor of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine University of Texas Southwestern Children’s Medical Center, Dallas Emergency Medical Services Sharon E. Mace, MD Professor, Department of Medicine Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine Department of Emergency Medicine	Marianne Gausche-Hill, MD (Co-I) Professor of Medicine David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Harbor-UCLA Medical Center Department of Emergency Medicine Garth D. Meckler, MD, MSHS Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics Oregon Health and Science University Paul E. Sirbaugh, DO Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics Section of Emergency Medicine Baylor College of Medicine Michael G. Tunik, MD Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine New York University School of Medicine NYU Langone Medical Center/ Bellevue Hospital Center Department of Pediatrics Division of Emergency Medicine Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH Professor of Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, and Health Policy George Washington University Children’s National Medical Center Return to Article

Table 2: Sections of the Educational Module in Prehospital Care for Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physicians
1. Overview and background including history 2. 9-1-1 and Dispatch 3. Medical Direction 4. EMS Personnel (Education and training, and scope of practice) 5. Prehospital Protocols and Out-of-Hospital Care 6. Equipment and Transport 7. Prehospital Triage and Receiving Hospitals 8. Legal Considerations 9. EMS System Organization and Administration 10. International EMS 11. Disasters and Mass Gatherings Return to Article