The Pony Express

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas





Happy Holidays from the MSC State Partnership,

Who Said it Couldn't Be Done in Texas?

The Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership continues to quell the common misconception that Texas is simply too large, too diverse, and too independent to accomplish many EMSC quality improvement goals. Reaching another major milestone. EMSC Texas has, for the first time, successfully achieved completed response rates exceeding 80% on both the EMS and the hospital surveys.

While it is still open until December 15, the EMSC Interfacility Transfer Guideline/Agreement survey already boasts a completed response rate of 85% of hospitals surveyed. Data from this questionnaire will be analyzed and the results aggregated to measure the Texas EMS and Trauma System's preparedness to provide critically ill and injured children with optimal care in a timely fashion through comprehensive written transfer guidelines and agreements. Results from the study will be made available on the EMSC State Partnership website at www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc in early 2011.

Our thanks go out to the individual emergency department directors, trauma coordinators, CNOs, and others who took your time to complete this survey. Of course, like any major undertaking in Texas, the achievement of this goal would not have been possible without the help and support of many of our partners and stakeholders around the state. This is, yet again, an excellent example of the synergy of collaboration and partnership making it possible to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

A special word of appreciation goes out to Abby Bonadonna, an Advanced Academic Associate from the University of Houston. Ms. Bonadonna spent long hours making phone calls, conducting survey interviews, and inputting data in addition to shadowing Dr. Manish Shah, EMSC Co-Investigator, in the Texas Children's Hospital emergency department for some meaningful real-world experience in pediatric emergency medical services systems. Thanks Abby and good luck in your academic and professional endeavors.

(See State Partnership Update on Page 2)

Best Practices

Preparing Young Minds for a Future in Pediatric **Emergency Medical Care** and Research



Donna R. Mendez, M. D.

The Institute of Medicine's (IOM) 2007 report, Emergency Care for Children: Growing Pains, highlighted the lack of well-trained researchers in pediatric emergency medical care and the critical need to build the evidence base. The report stated that research has "great potential to improve the quality, organization, and delivery of pediatric emergency care." The IOM also recommended support for training programs for all levels of healthcare providers including midlevel providers such as EMTs, nurses, and physician's assistants for conducting and participating in research.

The Academic Associates Program (AA Program), created by Dr. Donna Mendez at Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) in Houston, is a collaborative effort between TCH, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of Houston and serves as a model for programs aimed at cultivating and preparing students for future health careers with an emphasis on pediatric emergency research and clinical practice. In addition to course credit, the program offers exposure to both clinical medicine and clinical research that may assist with career decision making. In addition, access to clinicians and researchers often leads to mentor/mentee relationships that can serve as a springboard to career development and professional growth. Introductory and advanced courses give undergraduate students valuable training in research methods, data collection and processing, ethical issues in research, scientific writing, and career goal development with

the assistance of a faculty member. EMSC applauds Dr. Mendez and the AA Program for helping to prepare today's undergraduate students to become the pediatric emergency care researchers and evidence-based clinicians of tomorrow.



EMSC State Partnership, TX

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

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State Partnership Update

EMSC Advisory Committee Annual Workshop

The EMSC Advisory Committee (EAC) held its annual workshop in San Antonio on November 3, 2011 in conjunction with the Texas Pediatric Society annual conference. This year's meeting was stretched into a four-hour workshop in order to have ample time to review EMSC programs and projects, evaluate progress toward State Partnership goals and objectives, assure alignment with Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) EMSC grant performance measures, and conduct strategic planning for the next grant year and beyond.

While the committee agreed that the Partnership has made great strides over the 18 months since the current 3-year grant was awarded, it was also recognized that there is still a great deal of work ahead of us to reach and maintain a high level of pediatric preparedness in Texas. However, with representatives present from Children's Medical Center in Dallas/UT Southwestern, Cook Children's Medical Center, Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Family Advocates' Network, and with the support of partners and collaborators in every corner of the state, the EMSC State Partnership remains confident that Texas can become the model for excellence in pediatric emergency medical care.

EMSC Goes to the Texas EMS Conference

Every year, during the days before the Thanksgiving Holiday, EMS providers from Texas and surrounding states converge on the Texas EMS Conference for three days of networking and attending world-class lectures and practical hands-on workshops. The State Partnership had the great opportunity to visit with hundreds of EMS providers at the EMSC booth in the exhibit hall where information was provided on the EMSC program, the Medical Information Form for Children with Special Health Care Needs, EMSC Crew of the Year Award, The NHTSA Recommendations for the Safe Transportation of Children in Ground Ambulances, and more.

Also, three 2-hour hands-on workshops on the assessment and management of children with special healthcare needs were conducted by Janet Pointer, Dr. Manish Shah, and Tony Gilchrest with the very special help of <u>Texas Parent to Parent's (P2P)</u> Jeanine Pinner and Debbie Weiderhold and—the real teachers for the class—their sons, Jake and Daniel, respectively. In addition, EMSC Co-Director, Dr. Manish Shah, and EAC Member Dr. Paul Sirbaugh provided a one-hour lecture entitled "Developing Prehospital Pediatric Trauma Guidelines when Evidence is Limited," describing the regional consensus process through which a pediatric trauma protocol was developed in Trauma Service Area Q earlier this year.

Pediatric CE Opportunities

- > The Children's Hospital at Providence, El Paso Fire Department, and EMSC are teaming up in El Paso, Texas for the EMS Pediatric Conference on Saturday, December 4, 2010.
- > EMSC State Partnership's "Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs" is headed to Lubbock, Texas on Friday, February 4, 2011. For more information, drop a note in the Mail Pouch, or call Tony Gilchrest at 832-824-6028.
- ➤ If you are interested in a pediatric continuing education program in your region, please drop a note in the Mail Pouch, or call Tony Gilchrest at 832-824-6028

Final Thought

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

Mohandas Gandhi

Upcoming Events



- January 27, 2011: EMSC Stakeholder teleconference, 2:00 - 3:00 pm. Details to follow
- February 23-25, 2011: GETAC quarterly meetings in Austin
- February 24, 2011: EMSC Advisory Committee Meeting (NEW SCHEDULE), Austin Airport Hilton, 5:30 - 7:00 pm.