

The Pony Express

Improving emergency medical care for children all across Texas



EMSC State Partnership, TX



EMSC

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Headline News

EMSC State Partnership Honors Champions for Children

On Thursday, August 18, 2011, the EMSC State Partnership honored six children's advocates with its first annual EMSC Champions for Children award. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated "unwavering dedication and commitment to improving emergency medical care for children with special health care needs and for all children across the great State of Texas."



Jake Pinner and his mother, Jeanine, and Daniel Wiederhold and his mother, Debbie, each received special acknowledgement for their outstanding work in the development and implementation of a joint EMSC-Texas Parent to Parent

continuing education program for EMS and nursing level emergency care providers titled *Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs*.

In addition to their work behind the scenes, these two families have traveled with EMSC across the State to bring a very unique, real world experience into the classroom, presenting lectures and discussions, participating in practical scenarios and communication exercises, and interweaving the concepts of patient- and family centered care into every aspect of the training.



Also receiving special recognition were Texas Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr (Dem. Brownsville) and State Representative Elliott Naishtat (Dem. Austin) for their ongoing support of children's health and safety issues. Pediatric concerns supported by these champions include expanded health coverage for children with Autism, safety belts on school busses, people-first language initiatives, Teen Safe Driving Day, and pediatric preparedness in EMS.



Accepting the award for Senator Lucio was Legislative Director Sara Gonzalez (left), and Legislative Director Nancy Walker (right) accepted for Representative Naishtat.



Our heartfelt appreciation and profound admiration goes out to each of the 2011 EMSC Champions for Children. Your leadership and dedication are an inspiration and will, no doubt, improve the lives of children all across Texas.

Best Practices



GFWC and EMSC Partnership Help Save Young Boy's Life!

Last week, two-year old Elliot Wintersheidt accidentally swallowed a grape and began choking. Unable to get air, Elliot's father Paul Wintersheidt called 911. Superior Firefighter Jeremiah Glonek was the first to arrive on the scene. He carried with him a new Pediatric Jump Kit bag, a specialized kit that puts critical pediatric emergency supplies in one place to help EMS respond to pediatric calls with organized, easily accessible, and properly-sized equipment. Glonek immediately pulled out the appropriately size equipment to dislodge the grape and provide oxygen to help Elliot breathe until the ambulance arrived.

The [Superior Fire Department](#) of Wisconsin received the Pediatric Jump Kit in February 2011 from the Superior Kiwanis Club, a partner with the Greater Federation of Women's Club (GFWC) in WI. GFWCs throughout the country are partnering with the EMSC National Resource Center on behalf of the EMSC Program to work with local EMS departments, EMS agencies, Junior Women's clubs, and other community clubs to fund and equip ambulances with the pediatric bags. Glonek is very thankful for the donation, stating "the bags are labeled, contain the exact equipment we need, and the sizes are in their own bags so it makes it much easier." For more information about this project, contact Wisconsin FAN Representative [Elizabeth Davy](#).

(Reprinted by permission from the [EMSC Quicknews](#), Thursday, August 25, 2011)



Mail Pouch

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www.bcm.edu/pediatrics/emsc

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EMSC State Partnership Update

Pediatric Protocol Review Gets a Boost from HRSA

Last month, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced that supplemental funding would be made available to each State Partnership grantee that could be used for ongoing projects that support EMSC objectives. The Texas State Partnership has submitted a proposal that will allow just over \$10,000 in direct funding to be used to contract the services of the Texas Children's Hospital (TCH) Evidence-Based Outcomes Center to conduct a thorough review and analysis of literature and prepare a written report on three to four selected pediatric protocol topics over the next year. The TCH EBOCs activities are designed to promote scientific inquiry, evidence-based practice (EBP) and quality nursing outcomes. This is accomplished through activities of the four programs within the Center that include: Evidence-Based Practice Education, Research, Nursing Quality and Evidence-Based Outcomes.

At the August EMSC Advisory Committee workshop, members reviewed a list of protocol topics, along with work already completed or in progress through [EMSC Targeted Issues Grants](#) and other research initiatives, to select the four topics for review. These include Non-Trauma Shock, Pediatric Non-Transports, Cervical Spine Immobilization, and Post-resuscitation protocols. For each of the selected topics, the EMSC State Partnership will work with stakeholders to develop three specific [PICO questions](#) which will be forwarded to the TCH EBOC for their literature review and analysis. The first completed reviews are expected in early 2012 and will be posted on the EMSC State Partnership website along with a new pediatric respiratory distress protocol to be implemented in Austin, Dallas, and Houston as part of the TI grant project titled *Integrating Evidence-Based Pediatric Prehospital Protocols into Practice* under the direction of Dr. Manish Shah. Other evidence-based protocols and literature reviews will be posted as they become available.

Meeting Held at NCTTRAC to Discuss Regional Pediatric On-Line Medical Control

In the recent EMSC EMS surveys, more than 75% of respondents, both urban and rural, stated that they would be interested in having pediatric on-line medical control available from a base-station at a regional children's hospital. Furthermore, the survey found that, when attempts were made to contact medical direction over the previous one-year period, contact was not universally available 10% of the time for ALS providers and as much as 39% of the time for BLS providers. Reasons for these findings are still unknown, but rural providers reported a higher rate of failure to reach on-line medical control while non-rural agencies utilized on-line medical control more often. Therefore, in an effort to assure access to on-line medical control for seriously ill or injured pediatric patients, EMSC is actively investigating possible solutions. One proposal is to develop a system in Texas where regional pediatric centers would provide this service as a resource for agencies who either do not have dependable access through some other means, or who may benefit by having their most serious pediatric calls handled by pediatric emergency medicine specialists at the pediatric centers in their region.

On July 28, EMSC Program Manager Tony Gilchrest and EMSC Advisory Committee members Phillip Ewing, MD, and Sally Snow, RN, met at the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council offices with a number of medical directors and data managers from the Dallas/Fort Worth area to discuss the idea of regional pediatric on-line medical control as a possible resource for EMS agencies in their region and beyond. The purpose of the meeting was to identify ways to measure or estimate the potential impact such a service might have on regional children's hospitals, including the volume of calls to existing medical control, which agencies might use such a service, medical-legal implications, concerns about variances in protocols and scopes of practice across agencies within a region, and more. As a result of the meeting, the EMSC office will be developing a questionnaire for EMS medical directors and agencies to help answer questions about current utilization, perceived needs and benefits, and possible causes for communication failures reported. The questionnaire will be delivered through the RACs in an on-line survey format and results will be reported at the GETAC meetings.

Pediatric CE Opportunities

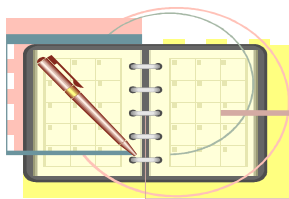
"Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs" is coming to San Angelo on October 15 and to Austin on October 29, 2011. For more information, drop a note in the [Mail Pouch](#), or call Tony Gilchrest at 832-824-6028.

Final Thought

If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

Frederick Douglass

Upcoming Events



Mark Your Calendar

- [Texas Pediatric Society Annual Meeting](#): September 22-25, Sugar Land Marriott Town Square, Sugar Land, TX
- Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs: October 15, San Angelo, TX
- Assessment and Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs: October 29, Austin, TX
- GETAC Committee Meetings: November 18-20, Austin Hilton, Austin, TX
- [Texas EMS Conference](#): November 20-23, Austin Convention Center; Austin, TX.