



Florida EMSC State
Partnership Program



Enhancing Pediatric Emergency Care:

The Florida Prehospital Pediatric
Readiness Recognition Program

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
College of Medicine – Jacksonville
Department of Emergency Medicine.



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HRSA
Health Resources & Services Administration

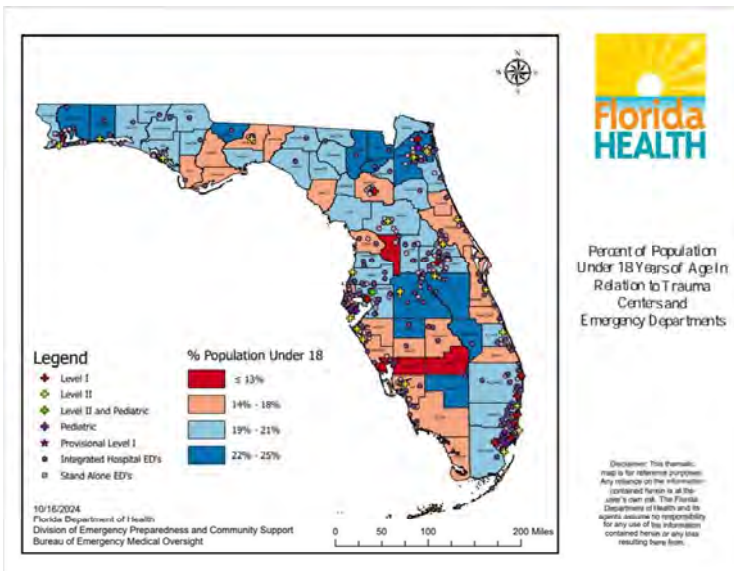
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Emergency Medicine in Florida

Download the map:



- 353 EDs (225 integrated EDs, 128 stand alone EDs)
- 337 licensed EMS agencies (291 ALS, 38 Air, 8 BLS)
- 16 Children's hospitals
- 36 trauma centers (11 state designated level I, 3 pediatric, 1 level II/pediatric, 21 level II)
- 4 burn centers with pediatric capability

Florida EMSC

The purpose of the Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) State Partnership Program is to expand and improve emergency medical services (EMS) for children who need treatment for trauma or critical care.

To achieve this mission, Florida EMSC partners with emergency departments (EDs), EMS agencies, disaster preparedness organizations, and families in the care of ill and injured children to enhance pediatric readiness across the continuum of care.



Download the one-page overview:



National EMSC Performance Measures



Emergency Departments

- 1) Expand the uptake of pediatric readiness in EDs by establishing a voluntary state hospital ED pediatric readiness recognition program
- 2) Designating pediatric emergency care coordinators/champions (PECCs)
- 3) Ensuring hospital EDs weigh and record children in kilograms
- 4) Ensuring that disaster plans address the needs of children

Emergency Medical Services

- 1) Improve pediatric readiness in EMS systems by establishing a voluntary state prehospital pediatric readiness recognition program
- 2) Designating PECCs
- 3) Increasing the number of agencies that have a process for pediatric skills-check on the use of pediatric equipment
- 4) Ensuring that disaster plans address the needs of children

Family Representation and Advocacy

- 1) Prioritize and advance family partnership and leadership in efforts to improve EMSC systems of care

State-Wide Collaboration

Florida EMSC has a 25-year collaboration between the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight (BEMO), University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville, Florida EMSC Advisory Committee, State EMS Advisory Council and constituent groups, and the Florida EMSC Family Advisory Network Representatives.

Florida EMSC Advisory Committee

- Established in section 401.245(5), Florida Statutes, in 1997 to advise the FDOH on matters concerning preventative, pre-hospital, hospital, rehabilitative, and other post-medical care for children
- Meets quarterly in conjunction with the State EMS Advisory Council and constituent group meetings
- Made up of 5 appointed members, 15 liaisons, Florida EMSC Program Staff, and FDOH Partners and constituent groups

Learn more about
the committee:



Educational Materials

Florida EMSC offers educational materials to EMS agencies, hospital EDs, and organizations in Florida. These materials include the following:

- [JumpSTART and START Badge Buddy](#)
- [Pediatric ABCs and More](#)
- Communication Cards (available in [English/Spanish](#) and [English/Haitian Creole](#))
- [Pediatric Pain and Fever Dosing Guide](#)
- Hurricane Preparedness Educational Activity Books (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#))
- Distraction tools and more!

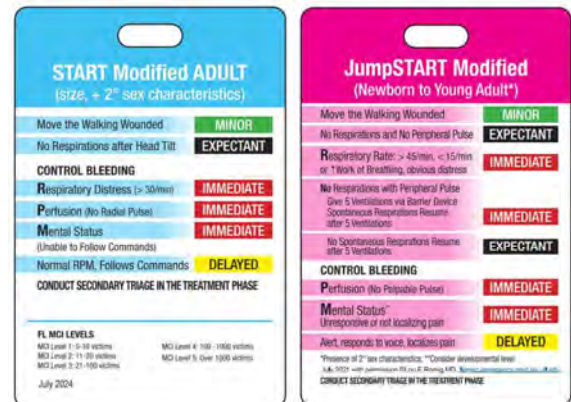


Download the
handout:



JumpSTART and START Badge Buddy

- JumpSTART is a pediatric mass casualty triage tool for use by healthcare professionals
- Created by Dr. Lou Romig in 1995 and was modified in 2001
- Developed in collaboration with Dr. Romig, Chief Julie Downey (retired), Dr. Phyllis Hendry, and members of the Florida EMSC Advisory Committee



Download the
badge buddy:



Pediatric ABCs and More

- Developed to assist healthcare professionals in finding the information needed to manage a pediatric emergency all in one place
- Illustrates information regarding:
 - Airway
 - Breathing
 - Circulation
 - Disability/Environment
 - Pain Management and Sedation
 - Death Communication Tips
 - And more!

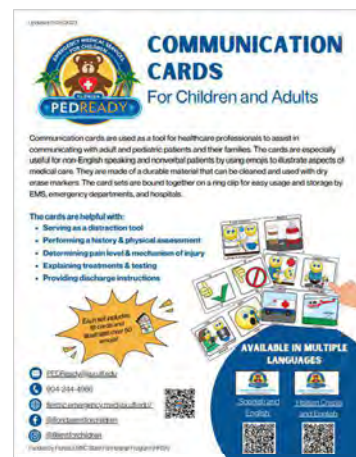


Download the poster:



Communication Cards

- A tool for health care professionals to communicate with adult and pediatric patients and their families. The cards are especially useful for those who don't speak English or are non-verbal.
- Use emojis to illustrate aspects of medical care (history, physical assessment, pain level, etc.)
- The card sets are bound together on a ring clip for easy usage and storage. They are made of a durable material that can be cleaned and used with dry-erase markers.



Download the Spanish/English version:



Download the Haitian/English version:



Download the handout:



Pediatric Pain and Fever Dosing Guide

- Provides dosing information for acetaminophen and ibuprofen
- Intended for use by parents/caregivers to provide safe dosing to children
- Liquid only and based on weight
- Available for download on the Florida EMSC website [here](#). To request the guide as a magnet, email pedready@jax.ufl.edu.

PEDIATRIC PAIN AND FEVER DOSING GUIDE										
Acetaminophen* (Tylenol®) Dosing Table (give every 4-6 hours as directed)										
Child's Age	0-24 mo	4-11 mo	12-23 mo	2-3 yr	4-5 yr	6-8 yr	9-10 yr	11-12 yr	13+ yr	
Weight in Pounds (lb)	6-11 lbs	12-17 lbs	18-23 lbs	24-30 lbs	31-47 lbs	48-59 lbs	60-71 lbs	72-90 lbs	91+ lbs	
Weight in Kilograms (kg)	3-5 kg	5-7 kg	8-10 kg	11-13 kg	14-21 kg	22-26 kg	27-32 kg	33-42 kg	44+ kg	
Liquid 160 mg/5 mL (mL)	1.25 mL	3.5 mL	3.75 mL	5 mL	7.5 mL	10 mL	12.5 mL	15 mL	20 mL	

Ibuprofen (Advil®/Motrin®) Dosing Table (give every 6-8 hours as directed)										
Child's Age	0-6 mo	6-11 mo	12-23 mo	2-3 yr	4-5 yr	6-8 yr	9-10 yr	11-12 yr	13+ yr	
Weight in Pounds (lb)	0-11 lbs	12-17 lbs	18-23 lbs	24-30 lbs	31-47 lbs	48-59 lbs	60-71 lbs	72-90 lbs	91+ lbs	
Weight in Kilograms (kg)	0-5 kg	6-7 kg	8-10 kg	11-13 kg	14-21 kg	22-26 kg	27-32 kg	33-42 kg	44+ kg	
Drops 50 mg/1.25 mL (mL)	**	1.25 mL	1.875 mL	2.5 mL	3.75 mL	5 mL	6.25 mL	7.5 mL	10 mL	
Liquid 100 mg/5 mL (mL)	**	2.5 mL	4 mL	5 mL	7.5 mL	10 mL	12.5 mL	15 mL	20 mL	

Download the dosing guide:



Hurricane Preparedness Educational Activity Book

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created Ready Wrigley to provide parents, guardians, teachers, and young children with tips, activities, and a story to help the whole family prepare for emergencies
- Designed to provide an interactive tool to further your child's education and promote disaster preparedness in your community
- The Hurricane preparedness educational activity book is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) on the Florida EMSC website. To request hard copies, email pedready@jax.ufl.edu.



Download the English version:



Download the Spanish version:



Fidget Spinner

- Can serve as a tool to calm and distract children and/or adults with sensory processing needs
- Helpful during medical procedures or transport
- To request a fidget spinner, email pedready@jax.ufl.edu



Website

- **About** (funding statement/disclaimer, performance measures, partners)
- **Resources** (calendar, data and maps, educational materials, E-newsletter, pediatric emergency topics, podcasts and apps, presentations, and simulation)
- **EMSC Advisory Committee** (meeting information, members, state plan)
- **Pediatric Readiness for EDs and EMS Agencies** (Prehospital PRRP, PECCs, National and Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Projects, state and national survey results)
- **Disaster Preparedness** (resources, sample disaster plans)
- **Patients and Families** (Family Advisory Network, resources)



Visit the website:



Social Media

- Active Florida EMSC Facebook ([@floridaemsforchildren](#)) and Instagram ([@flemsforchildren](#)) pages
- Posts involve the latest pediatric-related resources, information, and educational opportunities
- Followers are at the local, state, and national level. They include healthcare professionals in the hospital/ED setting, EMS personnel, organizations, parents/caregivers, etc.

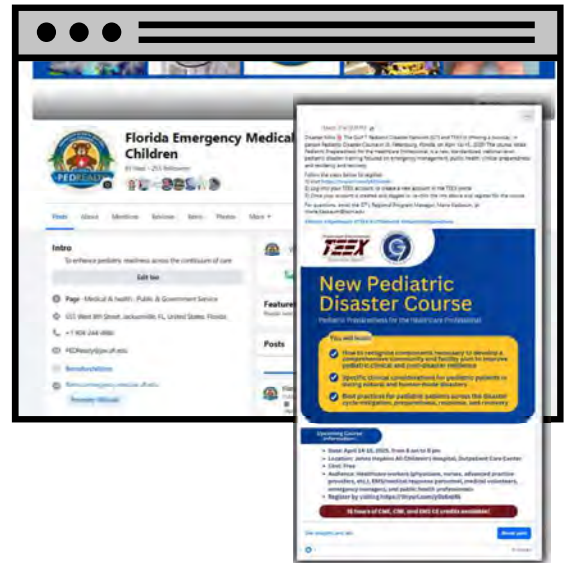
Facebook



Instagram



Tag us in your pediatric-related posts!



Quarterly E-newsletter

- Includes the latest pediatric emergency care resources, information, educational opportunities, and much more!
- Spring Issue coming soon. Submit topics and other pediatric-related highlights to pedready@jax.ufl.edu to be featured in the upcoming issue.
- Visit [here](#) to sign up to receive future issues and other Florida EMSC updates



Download the Winter Issue 2024:



What are Pediatric Readiness recognition programs?



State-wide initiatives that recognize emergency departments (EDs) and emergency medical service (EMS) and fire-rescue agencies for taking steps to become "Pediatric Ready."

Programs encourage:

- improvements in care
- enhanced coordination



What is Pediatric Readiness?

Pediatric Readiness is defined as following national guidelines about emergency care for children.

The national guidelines include recommendations like:

- Appointing pediatric emergency care coordinators (PECCs)
- Engaging in pediatric-specific quality improvement activities
- Ensuring clinicians maintain pediatric skills
- Including pediatric consideration in disaster planning



Why does Pediatric Readiness matter?

High levels of Pediatric Readiness (scoring >87/100 on the assessment) are associated with:

76%
lower mortality risk
in ill children.

60%
lower mortality risk
in injured children.

3-FOLD
reduction in
disparities.

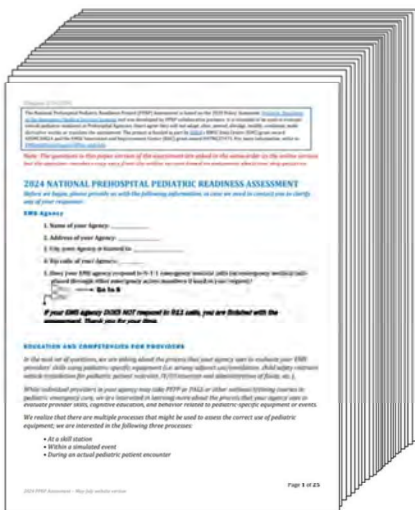


AT LEAST 2,143 children's lives saved each year.

ED statistics only; EMS research ongoing.



National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project



Learn more about the assessment:



Assessment

- To ensure all 911-responding EMS agencies and fire-rescue services have essential resources in place to provide high-quality emergency care for children
- Led by the National EMSC Program and more than 30 national organizations and stakeholders
- First assessment was released in 2024. Florida's response rate was 62% compared to a national response rate of 46%.
- Will be available to take in the future for agencies wishing to evaluate their readiness and for quality improvement purposes. In the meantime, you can print a copy of the assessment ([English version](#) or [Spanish version](#)) and review it with your agency administrator and/or PECC.



Checklist

Learn more about the checklist:



Toolkit

Learn more about the toolkit:



Florida Prehospital PRRP

The Florida Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Recognition Program (PRRP) recognizes EMS and fire-rescue agencies who demonstrate a strong commitment to enhancing pediatric emergency care, education, and disaster preparedness.

Participation in the Florida Prehospital PRRP is voluntary. The program is composed of two tiers: Florida PEDReady Silver and Florida PEDReady Gold. Each tier has defined criteria that must be met to achieve recognition.



Download the
handout:



Program Criteria

Download the full list
of program criteria:



Florida PEDReady Gold

- Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator/Champion (PECC)
- Equipment and Supplies
- Disaster
- Policies, Procedures, and Protocols
- Quality Improvement
- Community Outreach
- Education and Competencies
- Interactions with Systems of Care
- Family-Centered Care



Florida PEDReady Silver

- Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator/Champion (PECC)
- Equipment and Supplies
- Disaster
- Policies, Procedures, and Protocols
- Quality Improvement
- Community Outreach (Optional)



Steps to Apply



Review the Application Guide

- Developed to assist with the application process
- Outlines the information and supporting documentation requested in the application
- Review the guide in full prior to beginning the application

Complete the Application

- Available online in Qualtrics [here](#)
- Use the same URL, browser, and computer to complete the application over time
- Will have the opportunity to provide and submit all requested information and supporting documentation within the online application
- Once submitted, application documents will undergo a confidential review

Participate in a Verification Site Visit

- Prior to the site visit, the program may offer a post-review meeting to discuss feedback and additional information requested
- If the application meets the program criteria, then a virtual or onsite verification visit will be scheduled
- Applicants should expect a recognition decision and materials within 30 days of the verification visit

Recognition Decision

Recognition: Agencies approved for recognition will receive a written email, official letter, certificate, vehicle decals, and a sample media package. Approved agencies will be recognized and congratulated at the subsequent Florida EMSC Advisory Committee and council meetings. The recognition documents will be valid for three (3) years from the date of notice of recognition.

Denial: If the application is incomplete or the final information provided does not meet the criteria for the tier the applicant applied to, the applicant will receive an email notification and official letter including the reason(s) for denial. The applicant will be allowed to work on application deficiencies and resubmit.



Certificates of Recognition



Vehicle Decals

- Intended to spread awareness about the achievement within the community and throughout the state
- Can place on fire trucks, ambulances, vehicles, etc. (follow agency guidelines)

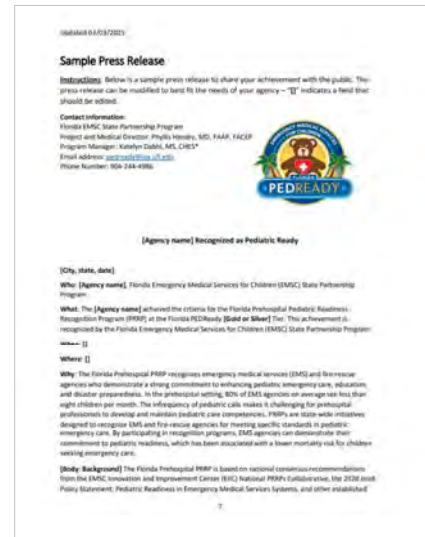


Sample Media Package

- Intended to spread awareness about the achievement within the community and throughout the state
- Includes Facebook banners, social media captions and graphics, and a press release
- Tag @Florida EMSC in posts on Facebook and Instagram to increase awareness



Social media graphics



Press release

Pilot Phase

- Intended to test the program to identify gaps/issues with the process before full program implementation
- Start date: January 6, 2025
- End date: TBD (pending 10 recognized sites)
- As of April 7, 2025:
 - 3 sites have been officially recognized: North Port Fire Rescue, Walton County Fire Rescue, and Martin County Fire Rescue
 - 14 sites are in various phases of the application process



Successes and Challenges

Successes

- Large interest from EMS and fire-rescue agencies; interfacility transport agencies also expressing interest
- Collaboration
- Improvement in pediatric readiness in agency protocols, etc.
- Community engagement



Challenges

- Vague answers to application prompts
- Lack of supporting documentation (e.g., MCI, After action reports, training logs)
- Technology issues with online application
- Administrative burden



Program Adaptations

Formed a core review team

Formed a core application review team of active stakeholders in the prehospital setting to ensure consistency throughout the pilot review process

Identified a file management system

Identified OneDrive as an efficient file management system. OneDrive securely houses all application materials in a central place for ease of access.

Clarified application prompts

Added additional details to the application prompts, including examples of supporting files to upload and removed indefinite wording such as "if possible" (in progress)

Participated in feedback meetings

The Florida EMSC Project and Medical Director and Program Manager meet with each applicant after the review team meeting. The post-review meeting with the applicant involves a discussion of feedback and additional information requested from the review team.




Next Steps

- Pre-application meetings will be available to agencies interested in applying to the program
- The team will host virtual workshops to assist applicants with the application process – looking at scheduling a workshop to be held in May 2025
- Once the pilot phase ends, all recognition program materials (i.e., webpage, application, application guide, review forms, verification visit guide, etc.) will be entirely reviewed and updated as necessary. The recognition program will then reopen to all Florida EMS and fire-rescue agencies.



Contact Us

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