

# The Kentucky EMS for Children Program and The Kentucky Pediatric Emergency Care Coalition's Pediatric Emergency Care Recognition Program Overview

## Background

The Kentucky Emergency Medical Services for Children (KYEMSC) Program is a federal-state partnership grant program, within the Kentucky Board of EMS (KBEMS), that works with hospitals and EMS agencies to improve emergency care for pediatric patients by meeting specific federal program performance measures. Our goal is to decrease pediatric mortality and morbidity due to severe illness or injury by enhancing pediatric emergency care services throughout the Commonwealth through building partnerships across the continuum of emergency care, offering special programs and training opportunities, and through policy development.

Work on federal performance measures regarding the development of a pediatric facility recognition program and other national activities like the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) provide clear evidence that the quality of and access to emergency pediatric care is highly variable across the country and that Kentucky is no exception. It is also clear that facility recognition programs can lead to significant improvements in pediatric readiness and growing evidence exists showing improved readiness leads to improved patient outcomes.

In 2016, KYEMSC hosted a stakeholders meeting in Louisville, KY, to rally interest and identify champions for this important work. The group included subject matter experts in pediatric emergency care, representatives from large and small hospitals, KYEMSC Advisory Committee members, and members of partner organizations. During this meeting, participants learned about other successful programs and activities, leading to a consensus that a voluntary and collaborative effort could make a real difference in the availability and quality of emergency pediatric care in Kentucky.

Shortly after this meeting, KYEMSC was chosen to participate in a national quality improvement collaborative, focusing on helping states develop and implement pediatric readiness and facility recognition programs. Capitalizing on the timing and interest from local champions, the attendees at the stakeholders meeting became the foundation for the Kentucky Pediatric Emergency Care Coalition (KPECC) and from its members, KYEMSC assembled a small team to attend the national EMSC collaborative in-person workshops and workgroup conference calls. Additional team members with state-wide leadership roles were selected to assist in the development of a Kentucky specific plan through monthly conference calls and meetings. The team of eight individuals working on the national collaborative activities formed the initial KPECC Steering Committee.

In January 2017, KYEMSC hosted the first official meeting of KPECC, inviting all Kentucky hospitals and interested partners to participate. The Steering Committee provided an update to attendees on the previous year's activities and solicited feedback from the group to guide future program development. By the end of that year, the collaborative would conclude and pilot testing would begin on the KYEMSC/KPECC Pediatric Emergency Care (PEC) Recognition Program.

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## The PEC Recognition Program

This program draws upon information from:

- *The 2018 Joint Policy Statement – Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department*
- The National Pediatric Readiness Project
- The Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Performance Measures
  - #4 – Hospital Recognition for Pediatric Medical Emergencies
  - #5 – Hospital Recognition for Pediatric Trauma

The KYEMSC Program provides oversight, funding, and logistical and administrative support to KPECC and the PEC Recognition Program. The KPECC Steering Committee developed the program criteria with feedback from key stakeholders and KPECC members throughout the state. While this program may develop into a multi-tiered system that recognizes both ED and inpatient pediatric capabilities, at this time only a single level of recognition focused the pediatric readiness of the ED is available.

After thoughtful consideration related to the resources of our state and discussion with key stakeholders, the KPECC Steering Committee has determined that the *2018 Joint Policy Statement – Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department*, provides a solid baseline standard that all hospitals should be compliant with to be eligible for recognition as a **Pediatric Ready Emergency Department**. These criteria include requirements in the following areas:

- Administration and coordination of pediatric care
- The qualifications of physicians, nurses, and other ED staff
- A formal pediatric quality-improvement or monitoring program (or the inclusion of pediatric metrics in existing QI programs)
- Patient safety
- Pediatric specific policies, procedures, protocols, and guidelines
- The availability of pediatric equipment, supplies, and medications

Hospitals interested in receiving recognition should complete a self-study and ensure compliance with all criteria before officially applying. If the only barrier to recognition is the inability to identify a Physician Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator, facilities that meet the remaining criteria will still be considered for recognition. In addition to the application, facilities must submit the Pre-Review Questionnaire (PRQ) and payment (unless waived) before scheduling a verification site visit.

The site visit team will be comprised of KYEMSC and KPECC personnel, to include at least one physician, one nurse, and the EMSC Project Director or alternate with subject matter expertise. In order to promote state-wide teamwork and the success of the program, recognized hospitals are required to make available the nurse or physician PEC Coordinator to participate in at least one site visit to another facility during their 3 year recognition period.

KYEMSC/KPECC PEC Recognition Program

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For additional information, please review the criteria, application, PRQ, and site visit agenda documents. You may also contact the EMSC Project Director @ [morgan.scaggs@kctcs.edu](mailto:morgan.scaggs@kctcs.edu)