

Pediatric Skill Competency Evaluation Plan and Records

Our biggest goal is to hold at least two- and preferably more- pediatric skills competency verification sessions as a required activity for employees. With last year's shortened certification period we accepted hands-on skills testing of employees taking Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)- which is a requirement for Paramedic-level employees in our department- as well as one assigned competency session for the whole department which was pushed to the end of the year since the year's activities had already been planned and the competency had to be wedged in. This left us doing the competency sessions at the very end of the year. Interestingly, completion of the pediatric competency check-off and a pre-scheduled mass casualty practice for individual crews coincided with a tragic motor vehicle collision involving three critically injured pediatric patients. Involved responders noted multiple times during debriefing and critiques that the recent mass casualty and pediatric competency practices greatly enhanced their comfort and efficiency in the response.

Plans for 2019 include multiple competency sessions spread several months apart for individual skills and scenario-based practice. The individual skills will include some just once but some skills that are high-risk, low-use or have a known risk of skill decay being tested more often.

Competency verification was setup for staff in December of 2018. Specific days/dates were not assigned. Instead, classroom space was pre-staged with all needed materials and the shift supervisor (or his designee) was assigned to assess staff while on duty. The December competencies assessed included pediatric supraglottic airways (King airways, which were just placed on units in November 2018), Broselow length-based resuscitation tape, pediatric Sager traction splint application, pediatric equipment bag familiarization, use of pediatric bag-valve-mask device, and pediatric intubation (Paramedic-level providers)

At the end of 2018, EMS had 85 personnel considered "field staff" who were required to be part of assigned pediatric competency review and to meet the programs educational requirements. The minimum competency assessment requirement was met by a total of 79 staff members, or 93%.