

Welcome to the EMS for Children team! We are pleased that you are interested in the role of a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC) and are taking steps to improve pediatric emergency care in Vermont. The Vermont EMS for Children Coordinator, along with other hospital and prehospital PECCs in the state, are additional resources to you as you navigate your new role.

What is a PECC?

A PECC is a “pediatric champion” - someone familiar with their organization, like an emergency department director, nurse manager, EMS head of service, training officer, or anyone with a passion for children - that has a desire to serve as a PECC. They advocate and coordinate pediatric injury prevention activities and education for their agencies and are a liaison between the State EMS for Children Program and their organization.

Models

Hospital PECCs -

We suggest that hospital emergency department PECCs consist of at least one nurse PECC and one physician PECC who can work collaboratively to address pediatric care concerns. However, creating even one of these roles will go a long way towards improving pediatric care. In addition, a physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse from your ED might also be considered for these roles.

Prehospital PECCs -

An agency does not have to have a single person performing the functions of a PECC. The responsibilities can be fulfilled by two or more people, such as the medical director, EMS chief, training officer, or other prehospital professionals. Additionally, there could be a region wide individual(s) that performs the responsibilities as a PECC for EMS agencies within a region. The following are acceptable models for EMS agencies implementing a PECC role.



One person serves as a PECC at an EMS agency (one person, one PECC)



One person serves as a PECC at multiple EMS agencies (district-level PECC)



A group of people share PECC responsibilities at an EMS agency (one agency, multiple PECCs)



Multiple agencies share a group of people who assume PECC responsibilities



Initiatives

Some of the initiatives PECCs work on include:

- Pediatric disaster planning.
- Compliance with pediatric clinical guidelines and protocols.
- Pediatric equipment/resource availability.
- Promotion and provision of pediatric-specific education.
- Promotion of family-centered care.
- Pediatric QA/QI projects.
- Advocacy for pediatric inclusion in organizational policies.

Suggestions for Getting Started

1. Join other Vermont PECCs from 6:30pm - 7:00pm before the monthly EMS for Children case review for an open forum. This is an opportunity to connect and collaborate with other PECCs around the state. Zoom information is sent out to PECCs in advance of the date.
2. EMSC has launched its first pediatric emergency care coordinator (PECC) learning module for ED-based PECCs. Check it out here: [ED PECC Learning Module](#).
3. Consider joining the State's free and voluntary pediatric recognition programs if you haven't already:
 - a. The pediatric recognition program for EMS agencies is the **Pediatric Safe** program. Email EMSC@vermont.gov for more information.
 - b. The pediatric recognition program for hospital emergency departments is the **Always Ready for Children** program. Email EMSC@vermont.gov for more information.
4. Pick at least one of the PECC responsibilities as a starting point. For example:
 - a. Create or improve hospital or prehospital pediatric disaster preparedness.
 - b. Review and improve pediatric equipment, medications, and supplies at your organization.
 - c. Evaluate what pediatric-specific policies and procedures your organization has in place (ex: child abuse/maltreatment; behavioral emergencies; IFTs, etc.) and create new ones, if needed.
5. Share pediatric training and educational resources with your organization. Here are some suggested resources:
 - a. Pediatric Education and Advocacy Kits (PEAK): <https://emscimprovement.center/education-and-resources/peak/>
 - b. Clinician resources, including podcasts, toolkits, recommendations, videos, and checklists: <https://emscimprovement.center/education-and-resources/audiences/clinicians/>
 - c. Short video clips with simple tips to enhance pediatric emergency care: <https://www.masspediatrictoolkit.com/getting-started/>