



**EMS Focus Webinar FAQ:** How Ready Is Your Agency to Provide Pediatric Care? Build Your Clinicians' Confidence When Treating Children

April 23, 2024

---

**The following answers are provided by:**

- **Gam Wijetunge**, Director, NHTSA's Office of EMS (moderator)
- **Kathleen Adelgais**, MD, MPH/MSPH, Professor, Pediatrics-Emergency Medicine at University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO, and PPRP Co-Lead
- **Eric Hicken**, CPM, MICP, EMS for Children and Special Projects Program Manager, New Jersey Department of Health
- **Chief Frank St. Denis**, MHS, NRP, FP-C, EMS Division Chief, Lenoir County Emergency Services and PPRP Assessment field test participant

*1. Will EMS continuing education be offered for the webinar?*

No, not directly, we're not CAPCE accredited.

*2. I'm seeing more and more behavioral health issues within children. Are there additional programs to focus study in this area as well?*

Thank you for your question. The EMS for Children Innovation and Improvement Center has developed a set of resources to support the care of children with Mental and Behavioral Health Emergencies.

<https://emscimprovement.center/education-and-resources/peak/>

*3. How can we access the assessment?*

The assessment can be found at [emspedsready.org](https://emspedsready.org).

*7. When will the assessment be available?*

The assessment is available now through July 31, 2024, at [emspedsready.org](https://emspedsready.org)

*4. Do we do the assessment, make improvements, and wait five years for the next assessment? Or do we reassess once we implement pediatric improvements to update our scores?*

The PPRP assessment will close on July 31, 2024, for a period of time to complete data analysis. The current timing of when it will reopen for EMS agencies to reassess their scores after implementing improvements is still being determined.

EMS agencies should plan to use the gap report generated from their initial completion of the assessment to identify areas for improvement and coordinate with their EMSC State Partnership Program Manager to learn more about what they can do to implement change. Resources such as the [PPRP Toolkit](#) and NEMSIS Pediatric Dashboards are also available to support EMS agencies. The NEMSIS Pediatric Dashboards are a set of measures that EMS agencies can use to evaluate how well they are providing pediatric care and will be available in June 2024. Find your EMSC State Partnership Program [here](#).

*5. Along with the requirements to be EMS pediatric ready, will there be funding available to purchase the correct and more specific equipment (ex: IO needles are \$340 a piece and they mainly expire on the shelves)?*

There is no federal or state requirement for EMS agencies to be pediatric ready. Pediatric readiness is a voluntary process for emergency care organizations.

Each EMSC State Partnership Program has funding to support a program manager to implement pediatric readiness initiatives statewide. Given that data from hospital-based care clearly demonstrates improved outcomes such as reduction in mortality and reductions in disparities among children, many EMSC State Partnership Program Managers are currently involved in developing an EMS pediatric readiness recognition program, and some are already active. These programs are designed to set criteria by which EMS agencies can be recognized as pediatric ready. Additionally, the EMSC Innovation & Improvement Center is in the process of creating a database on active grant programs that can support pediatric equipment purchases by EMS agencies. EMS agencies are encouraged to work with their EMSC State Partnership Program Manager to look for funds to help support equipment purchases.

*6. How does the EMSC define pediatrics?*

The Federal EMSC Program does not have a definition for “pediatric.” Age cutoffs are often dependent on certain clinical conditions such as trauma, and legal situations such as consent for treatment. The Program recommends referring to local, regional, and/or state regulatory definitions.