



Pediatric Physician Champion



What is a Pediatric Physician Champion and Why Do All Emergency Departments Need One?

The federal EMSC Pediatric Readiness initiative strongly recommends that every emergency department have a pediatric physician champion. In Illinois, all EMSC recognized hospitals are required to designate a pediatric physician champion to assist in ensuring that personnel are prepared to care for ill and injured children. This is an emergency department/hospital physician that has pediatric interest/expertise/background. The pediatric physician champion works with the pediatric quality coordinator (PQC) to ensure compliance with and documentation of PCCC/ EDAP/ SEDP requirements.

Joint policy statements from the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, and Emergency Nurses Association have shared data findings that demonstrate hospitals with a pediatric physician champion in place have increased pediatric readiness scores. Higher pediatric readiness scores correlate with better outcomes for pediatric patients, decreased morbidity and mortality among pediatric patients, and reports of increased provider comfort when managing the critically ill or injured child.

Pediatric Physician Champion Activities

- Serves as a pediatric advocate for the emergency department.
- Ensures pediatric needs are considered during updates to policies/processes/protocols.
- Serves as a resource on pediatric appropriate equipment/supplies/medications.
- Works with and supports the emergency department pediatric quality coordinator.
- Participates in pediatric quality improvement activities, including review of pediatric medical records.
- Promotes and shares pediatric continuing education opportunities.
- Promotes and encourages family-centered care by all emergency department personnel.
- Encourages department participation in pediatric research, including, but not limited to, data collection as requested by EMS for Children.

Questions? Contact
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Interested in this role and pediatric resources?

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