

National Pediatric Readiness Project

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Purpose:

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) made a recommendation in 2006 for regionalized systems of care and further recommended that hospital emergency departments (EDs) and emergency medical services (EMS) systems appoint qualified coordinators for pediatric emergency care. EDs that appoint Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) tend to be more prepared as measured by compliance with guidelines on the care of children in the ED published by the American College of Emergency Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Emergency Nurses Association (ENA). The 2019 ENA Policy Statement, *The Emergency Nurse's Role in Supporting Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department*, states that Identification of a Nurse PECC is central to the readiness of any ED that cares for pediatric patients.

Nurse Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator Qualifications:

- a. Registered Nurse (RN) who possesses special interest, knowledge, and skill in the emergency medical care of children as demonstrated by training, clinical experience, or focused continuing nursing education.
- b. Maintains competency in pediatric emergency care.
- c. Credentialed and has competency verification per the hospital policies and guidelines to provide care to children of all ages.
- d. May be a staff nurse who is currently assigned other roles in the ED, such as clinical nurse specialist, or may be shared through formal consultation agreements with professional resources from a hospital that is capable of providing definitive pediatric care.

Nurse Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator Responsibilities:

- a. Facilitating and participating in ED pediatric quality improvement and practice improvement activities.
- b. With the Physician PECC, serving as liaison or coordinator to appropriate in-hospital and out-of-hospital pediatric care committees and other providers of pediatric inpatient or emergency care in the community, including EMS and definitive pediatric care hospitals.
- c. With Physician PECC, facilitating hospital-based educational activities and ED nursing continuing education in pediatrics, and ensuring that pediatric-specific content is included in new staff member orientation.
- d. Ensuring that initial and annual competency evaluations completed by the ED nursing staff are pertinent to children of all ages.
- e. Promoting pediatric disaster preparedness for the ED and participating in hospital disaster preparedness activities.
- f. Promoting patient and family education in illness and injury prevention.
- g. Providing assistance and support for pediatric education of out-of-hospital providers who are affiliated with the ED.
- h. Working with clinical leadership to ensure adequate staffing, pediatric equipment and medications, and other resources through the development and periodic review of ED standards, policies, and procedures.
- i. Collaborating with the Physician PECC to ensure that the ED is prepared to care for children of all ages, including children with special healthcare needs.

Sources:

1. ACEP/ENA/AAP Joint Policy Statement. 2018. Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department.
2. ENA Position Statement. 2019. The Emergency Nurse's Role in Supporting Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department.
3. Institute of Medicine. 2007. Emergency Care for Children: Growing Pains.