Indiana Emergency Medical Services for Children

Background

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) is a federal program designed to reduce pediatric morbidity and mortality as a result of severe injury and illness. EMSC was first established in the 1980s. Housed under the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, it provides competitive grant funding for state wide initiatives and pediatric research. Between 1996 and 2005 Indiana EMSC worked with the state EMS commission to standardize and update pediatric equipment for BLS and ALS provider transport vehicles, partnered with the Kiwanis to deploy Broselow equipped bags, and provided multiple novel educational opportunities for prehospital providers. However, due to lack of funding, the program ceased to exist in 2005. In 2006 the Institute of Medicine (IOM) published "Growing Pains," reporting that, although, pediatric patients comprise 27% of emergency visits; many hospitals and EMS agencies are not well equipped to handle pediatric patients. Indiana has 1,577,629 children between the ages of 0-17 years of age, comprising 25% of it's population. IEMSC was restablished with state partnership grant funding in 2009 under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Weinstein.

National State Partnership Program Initiatives

EMSC focuses on improving the quality of emergency care for children, and seeks to integrate children's interests into the existing EMS system.

- Ensuring the availability of on-line and off-line medical direction for pre-hospital providers caring for pediatric patients
- Ensuring availability of essential pediatric equipment as defined in the national guidelines put forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Surgery Committee on Trauma, American College of Emergency Physicians, National Association of EMS Physicians and EMSC
- Assisting to establish hospital recognition for pediatric medical and traumatic emergent stabilization
- Ensuring that hospitals have written interfacility transfer guidelines for pediatric patients to provide timely transfer to pediatric or tertiary referral centers when medically needed
- Integrating the interests and unique needs of children into the existing EMS system

Indiana EMSC Program Initiative Efforts

- Efforts to ensure that all children everywhere in the state have timely access to appropriate emergency medical care
- Efforts to provide support and pediatric educational opportunities for pre-hospital and healthcare providers throughout the state
- Supports injury prevention efforts by participating with state partners including Safe Kids, IU School of Medicine Emergency Medicine's Advocacy Program, and local fire departments
- Provides Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP) course materials, training SIM Manikins, training to EMS providers through state partnership grant funding, and seeks to increase educational opportunities to ALS/BLS providers across the state through regional presentations in rural communities
- Provides pediatric vital sign cards to EMS providers
- Integration of pediatric perspectives into on-going statewide EMS and Trauma programs and initiatives
- Developing freely available evidence based model pediatric emergency protocols

Community Partnerships

Indiana Fire Chiefs Association, Indiana Department of Homeland Secuirty, Indiana State Department of Health, Kiwanis, Indiana University Emergency Medicine , American Academy of Pediatrics Indiana Chapter, Asthma Alliance, Optimists, Emergency Nurses Association, MESH, Indiana University, and Indiana Rural Health Association

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References

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