

EMSC

News and Views



EMSC National Resource Center Newsletter

Winter 2009

Program to Develop New Performance Measures

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In an effort to continue its focus on accountability and performance, the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau has tasked the EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) with developing new performance measures for the EMSC Program. This year, the NRC will work with a group of five special consultants to evaluate and refine per-

formance measures for State Partnership grantees. The Center is also convening special working groups to develop new performance measures for Targeted Issue grantees, the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network, the NRC, and the National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center.

New Targeted Issue Grant Competition Coming Soon

Anticipation is growing for the 2010 Targeted Issues (TI) competition. In the past, TI grants have focused on projects of national significance. Previous TI projects include: validating the Emergency Severity Index tool and making it more user-friendly and easily implemented for pediatric patients; using simulation to identify sources of provider errors as well as best practices in prehospital care; evaluating the Pediatric Assessment Triangle (PAT) for use by prehospital providers for pediatric patients in the field; and developing pediatric emergency care performance measures.

The EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) expects the TI Grant Guidance to be released in early 2010. Once released, it will be posted to the [NRC website](http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc) (<http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc>). For technical

assistance with the grant writing process, contact NRC's Jaclynn Haymon, MPA, RN, at (202) 476-4927 or jhaymon@cnmc.org.

EMSC's Joe Wright Meets With President Obama

In late July, President Barack Obama met with pediatric leaders from Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) in Washington, DC – including Joseph Wright, MD, MPH, medical director for the EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) – to discuss the unique needs of children and the challenges of ensuring quality healthcare among pediatric populations.

In the closed-door meeting, President Obama listened to the concerns of Dr. Wright and a handful of other physicians,



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State Partnership Update: Kansas, Michigan, Indiana

The EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) would like to recognize the hard work of the Program's State Partnership grantees. The following states have recently had site visits; however these aren't all of the states that are doing excellent work! Future issues of *EMSC News and Views* will showcase the work of other states that are also doing a fantastic job.

Kansas

Sarah House, EMSC program manager for Kansas, used a unique method to encourage participation on the state's EMSC Advisory Board. She had each mem-



ber add a leaf to an "EMSC Tree" with their commitment to work on various issues.

This past July, the NRC and the National EMSC Data Analysis and Resource Center (NEDARC) traveled to Kansas for a two-day site visit. Major state accomplishments were discussed during the visit, including: implementation of pediatric initial and renewal classes for Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support providers, Pediatric Prehospital Care classes, Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals classes, and Emergency Nurses Pediatric Courses, among others. In collaboration with Safe Kids Kansas, Kansas EMSC has sponsored six child passenger safety classes, including "Safe Travel of All Children-Transporting Children with Special Health Care Needs" and "Transporting Children Safely in Patient Care Units."

Michigan

On September 3, representatives from the NRC and NEDARC attended Michigan's EMSC Advisory Committee meeting in Lansing, MI. During the meeting, Targeted Issue Grantee Richard Lammers, MD, provided an informative update on his two Targeted Issue (TI) grant projects: MI First STEPPS and MI-PE2DS. His studies have illustrated that many providers have multiple pediatric skill deficiencies, such as using the Broselow tape correctly and selecting appropriately-sized airways when intubating patients in the field.

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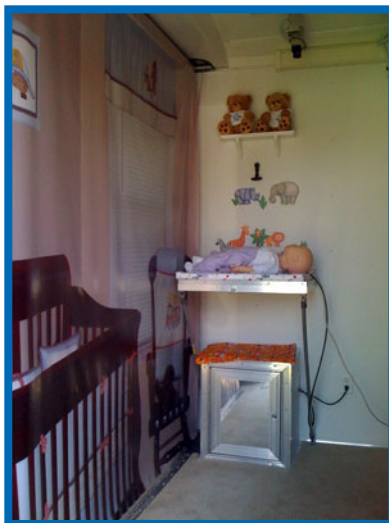
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EMSC News and Views is a publication of the EMSC National Resource Center (NRC), located in Silver Spring, MD. The NRC was established in 1991 to help improve the pediatric emergency care infrastructure throughout all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories. The NRC is housed within Children's National Medical Center, one of America's leading pediatric institutions serving sick and injured children and their families. In 2008, the NRC applied for its fourth (multi-year) funding award to provide support to the federal EMSC Program.

The federal EMSC Program is designed to ensure that all children and adolescents receive appropriate care in a health emergency. It is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Since its establishment, the federal EMSC Program has provided grant funding to all 50 states, five U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

Cooperative Agreement Number: U07MC09174

Dr. Lammers also shared that effective training is dependent on the educational process employed. As the principal investigator for MI First STEPPS, Dr. Lammers has been actively involved in the evaluation of scenario/stimulation training, a process proven to be effective, especially in skill acquisition. With the second TI grant, Dr. Lammers is evaluating the scenario-based training process within four domains – affective, cognitive, procedural, and teamwork. Thus far, Dr. Lammers has developed teaching scenarios, outlined a debriefing process, and completed development of a mobile teaching lab. The EMSC mobile teaching lab was made available for meeting attendees to tour.



Indiana

During Indiana's site visit, the NRC and NEDARC toured the Managed Emergency Surge for Healthcare Center, one of five projects funded nationally to create best practice models for the nation's health and medical community. Thus far, the project has resulted in the implementation of the nation's only citywide electronic

medical records system, known as Regenstrief Medical Records Systems. The system allows emergency departments and EMS providers access to an electronic record of all recent care provided at any of 18 participating hospitals in Indianapolis. In addition, the system allows for real time monitoring of emergency department capacity and diversion status so that patients can be efficiently directed to available facilities.

Program Announces Dates, Location For 2010 Annual Program Meeting

The 2010 Annual Program Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 25, through Thursday, May 27 at the Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center in Bethesda, MD. As in years past, the meeting will be held in conjunction with the Mid-year Meeting of the National Association of State EMS Officials, which starts on Monday, May 24.

The following individuals with new or continuation grant funding starting on March 1, 2010, are expected to attend the Annual Program Meeting as a condition of their EMSC grant funding:

- State Partnership grantees (two project representatives and one consumer/family representative)
- Targeted Issue grantees (two project representatives, one of whom should be the principal investigator or co-principal investigator)
- Network Demonstration Development Project grantees (two project representatives from each regional node, one of whom should be the principal investigator or co-principal investigator)
- Central Data Management Coordinating Center grantee (two project representatives).

All EMSC grantees will be required to register for the meeting through the [EMSC National Resource Center website](http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc) (<http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc>). Room rates are \$209.00 per room, per night (state and local tax not included). Rates are valid two days prior and two days post the meeting dates. The registration cut-off date is Saturday, May 1.

EMSC Medical Director, from page 1

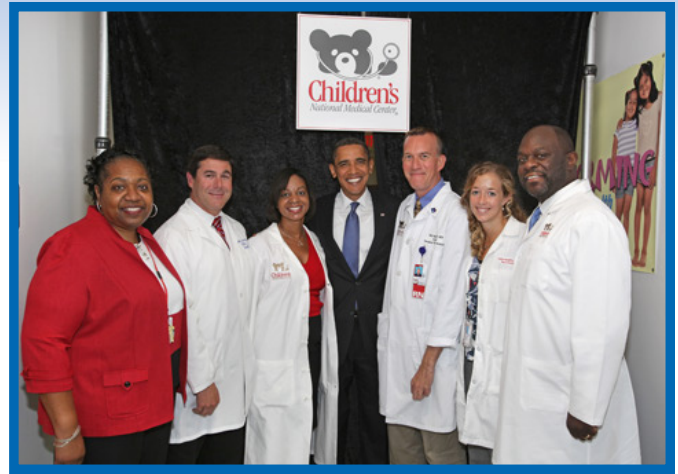
nurses, and physician assistants representing the entire continuum of care. Topics discussed ranged from improving access to care to the unique challenges of employing new technologies, such as electronic medical records, in a pediatric setting. Additional information about the roundtable discussion is available on the

“President Obama’s recent visit to Children’s National reflects his Administration’s desire to learn about the unique needs of children as health care reform is being considered.”

-Joe Wright, MD, MPH

Children’s National website (<http://www.childrensnational.org>).

“President Obama’s recent visit to Children’s National reflects his Administration’s desire to learn about the unique needs of children as health care reform is



being considered,” Dr. Wright said. “The experience of children and families in the emergency care system is an important bell weather of the ‘health’ of a health care system and I, as a representative for both CNMC and the EMSC National Resource Center, appreciate the opportunity to have contributed to the dialogue.”

News of President Obama’s visit with CNMC, including video footage of a follow-up presidential news conference, is featured on the websites of many national news gathering organizations, including CNN.com, NYTimes.com, and LATimes.com. A photo gallery of his visit with CNMC pediatric experts is also available on the [Children’s National website](http://www.childrensnational.org).

Not Just Legal Mumbo Jumbo: An EMSC Legislation Update

EMSC Appropriations. Although fiscal year (FY) 2010 began on October 1, 2009, Congress did not pass all of the FY 2010 appropriations bills before the start of the year. Therefore, in December Congress released an FY 2010 omnibus appropriations bill (H.R. 3288) that combines several different funding measures, including the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, into one. This omnibus bill includes \$21.5 million for the EMSC Program. This is a \$1.5 million increase over the fiscal year 2009 funding level.

On December 10, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 3288 by a vote of 221-202. On December 13, the Senate approved the bill by a vote of 57-35. As of press time, the bill is awaiting the President’s signature.

EMSC Reauthorization: In January of 2009, Congressman Jim Matheson (D-UT) introduced HR 479, the Wakefield Act, to reauthorize the EMSC Program for five years, from FY 2010 through FY 2014. In March, the House of Representatives passed HR 479 by a vote of 390-6. In February, Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) introduced the Wakefield Act, S 408, in the Senate. Both bills authorize a funding level for the EMSC Program starting at \$25 million in FY 2010 and ending at approximately \$30.5 million in FY 2014. As of press time, the Senate is debating the bill.

In addition, in November, Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), introduced the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which is the Senate’s version of health care reform legislation and which includes a provision to reauthorize the EMSC Program. As of press time, this bill is expected to be considered in the coming weeks.

Welcome Aboard!

Four Exceptional Additions to the Resource Center Staff

The EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) and the National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC) are pleased to announce the following staff additions:



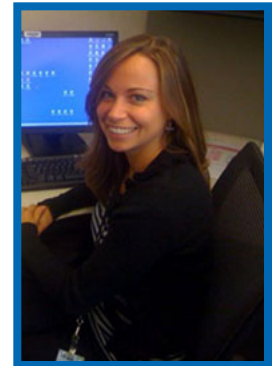
Ian Weston, MPP, joined the NRC in October as the new director. Ian comes to the NRC with more than 10 years of EMS experience and six years of experience in the health policy arena. Most recently, Ian served as the senior director of government affairs and policy and chief financial officer at Jeffrey J. Kimbell and Associates, a health care/life sciences

policy firm. In this capacity, Ian was responsible for developing legislative strategies and advising clients on health-related congressional legislation and activities. Prior to that, Ian served as a health policy advisor to U.S. Congressman John Sweeney (R-NY). Ian has been a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department in Long Island, NY, since 1999 and also serves with the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department in Arlington, VA. Ian holds a Masters in Public Policy (Global Medical and Health Policy) from George Mason University and received his Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy and Political Science from Syracuse University. In his spare time, Ian serves as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Society of Health Policy Young Professionals. Ian can be reached at iweston@cnmc.org or at (202) 476-6890.

Tiffani Johnson, MD, joined the NRC in July as a projects coordinator. She is a native of New Jersey where she graduated from the Trenton Public Schools with dreams of becoming a physician. She completed her undergraduate studies at Xavier University in New Orleans and earned her medical degree from The University of Medicine and Dentistry, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. She recently completed her pediatric residency training at Children's National Medical Center in the Community Health Track. As a program coordinator, Dr. Johnson's re-

sponsibilities include leading the performance measure development team and participating in activities related to pediatric disaster preparedness. Dr. Johnson's future goals include positively impacting the health of underrepresented and underserved populations through clinical practice, research, and health policy leadership. Dr. Johnson can be reached at TJJohnson@cnmc.org or at (202) 476-4927

Kelly Johnson joined the NRC in November as its new program associate. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Virginia in May 2008 with degrees in English and Spanish, as well as a specialization in pre-med. She has spent the past year working in the fields of public health, healthcare policy, and disaster preparedness with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response in the Emergency Care Coordination Center. In the future she plans to study pediatrics as a dual MD/MPH candidate. Kelly can be reached at KyJohnson@cnmc.org or at (202) 476-4927.



Deborah Norwood is the new NEDARC executive secretary. Debbie has been with the University of Utah since January 2006. She started as an office professional and recently became a member of the NEDARC team. She is very excited about the work and looks forward to meeting everyone. Debbie can be reached by email at Deborah.norwood@hsc.utah.edu or by phone at (801) 585-9158. Welcome Debbie!

FAN Update: Hackett Family Wins National EMSC Award



On June 11, 2009, the EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) hosted the National Heroes Award luncheon in Alexandria,

VA. The Federal EMSC Program recognized the Hackett Family as the recipients of the 2009 Family Volunteer of the Year award. The award recognizes an individual and/or family for dedicating their time and energy to support community activities aimed to improve the well-being of children, and for providing a commendable service that has addressed a particular need of the emergency medical care system for children in the community.

In 2006, Hannah Hackett, daughter of Wayne and Peggy Hackett, and sister to Matthew Hackett, was killed in a motor vehicle crash at the age of 17. Both she and her boyfriend were thrown from the backseat of the vehicle after unbuckling for one moment to be closer.

Since then, Peggy and Matthew have turned grief into strength and determination to increase safety for other teen drivers and their passengers. Together with the Injury Prevention Center at Arkansas Children's Hospital they have worked to increase awareness of motor vehicle safety for young drivers and their passengers.

Hannah's story helped to influence state policy-makers to pass a record number of safety-related bills earlier this year.

The Family Advisory Network (FAN) was created to include parent representatives in the activities of state EMSC programs. The EMSC State Partnership grantees are, in fact, required by the Federal Program to have a family representative on their EMSC Advisory Committee. Family representatives support EMSC grantees in a variety of ways that include: serving on committees and advisory councils; providing a consumer's perspective in the development of EMS policies, procedures, rules, and regulations; and participating in public education campaigns and other community outreach activities.

To highlight the hard work and accomplishments of the FAN network, the EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) publishes the bi-annual newsletter *FAN Mail*, which is distributed to an alliance of family representatives throughout the United States. This newsletter features articles on people, programs, and activities related to family representative participation in the emergency medical care of children. To receive a copy of future issues of *FAN Mail*, contact Theresa Morrison-Quinata at tmquinat@cnmc.org. Past issues of the newsletter are available on the [NRC website](#).

Thirsty for More Knowledge? Try Online Training Modules and Toolboxes

The EMSC National Resource Center (NRC) now has two online training modules available: [Family Presence in the Emergency Department](#) and [Pediatric Disaster Planning and Preparedness](#) (both located at <http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc>). Each module should take about 60-90 minutes to complete and participants may exit a course at any time, re-entering later to complete their course.

The NRC is currently seeking continuing education (CE) hours for the courses, but participants are encouraged to work with their institutions for CEs. Upon completion of the course and post-test, participants can print a certificate as proof of course completion.

Many additional online training modules, created by EMSC Program grantees, are available through the NRC website. Check out the latest modules from [Illinois](#), [Tennessee](#), and [New Mexico](#). All three states have recently released EMSC-specific online training.

In addition to web-based training, the NRC offers 13 [toolboxes](#). Each toolbox focuses on a specific topic and features resources for healthcare providers and families, a pre-populated PubMed search, and a section on "example practices." Toolbox topics include: Pediatric Patient Safety, Cultural Competency, Inter-facility Transfer, Pediatric Disaster Preparedness, and Pediatric Pain Management, among others.

NRC and NEDARC Share Their Holiday Traditions

It's that time of year again! The holidays are an exciting time filled with food, family, and fun. Listed here is how some of the staff at the EMSC National Resource Center and the National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center celebrate the holidays. Enjoy!

"Traditionally, we decorate the Christmas tree during Thanksgiving."

–*Tee Morrison-Quinata, State Partnership team leader, NRC*

"I will be taking two weeks off to celebrate Christmas, my husband's birthday as well as my own birthday. My husband and I will be in Culpeper, VA, visiting family for Christmas."

–*Andrea Genovesi, education coordinator, NEDARC*

"For the holidays my entire extended family, 50-60 relatives, reunite in New York at my aunt's house. Christmas morning is mayhem as we still have very young cousins who wake up at 4:00 a.m. to see what Santa left under the tree. It's great to have such a large family and so much joy during this wonderful season!"

–*Anita Patel, program associate, NRC*

"I'm a single mom who will be spending Christmas with her three boys, ages 16,18, and 20 (hopefully without the girlfriends!) and probably be tortured by playing (and losing badly) the video games I will be tricked into purchasing for them for Christmas!"

–*Debbie Norwood, executive secretary, NEDARC*

"I have a tree trimming party where everyone brings a Christmas ornament and we decorate the tree together."

–*Barbara Mitchell-Swain, meetings coordinator, NRC*

"I always celebrate Christmas with my family. I stay up with the nieces and nephews listening for Santa."

–*Patty Schmuhl, communication specialist, NEDARC*

"The best way to enjoy thanksgiving dinner is to invite family and have them cook the dinner."

–*Tasmeen Singh-Weik, executive director, NRC*

"My family is pretty traditional: we bake Christmas cookies, hang stockings, and attend the midnight

church service on Christmas Eve. (It's a pretty busy day). My dad's Christmas present requires multiple layers of wrapping (current record is 27) to circumvent his habit of guessing the internal contents."

–*Kelly Johnson, program associate, NRC*

"I will be spending Christmas by hanging out with my family. NEDARC is looking forward to working with everyone in the New Year!"

–*Mike Ely, director, NEDARC*

"Our entire family usually sponsors an orphanage or school overseas every year, and sends them a few boxes of necessities and holiday gifts (school supplies, canned goods, clothes, toys etc.). On Christmas Eve we attend midnight mass, come home at about 1:30 a.m. in the morning, and open one gift. On Christmas Day we have a huge family lunch and open the rest of the gifts, then head off to see a holiday movie at the theater. Christmas for us goes on until Three Kings Day, so the tree doesn't come down until after January 6."

–*Gayathri Jayawardena, program associate, NRC*

"Instead of exchanging presents, the adults in my family donate presents or money to a charity of choice. The big dinner is always on Christmas Eve and Christmas mornings are spent watching the kids open their presents, eating Quiche Lorraine, and watching sappy Christmas movies on Lifetime or the Hallmark Channel."

–*Jaclynn Haymon, program manager, NRC*

"Emphasis has moved away from gift-giving. But there's plenty of good food and company. As our kids started approaching adulthood, the trend of Christmas Day movie openings emerged. A new tradition – of sorts – was born: Christmas Night at the Movies! We go en masse, and take in a flick as a family. This year, I expect it'll be the new Sherlock Holmes movie. We are shopping for one little boy, as part of our church's holiday outreach. Of course, this will be my granddaughter, Samiya's, first Christmas! And there's another one on the way."

–*Tanya Brown, staff assistant, NRC*

"I celebrate Christma-hanu-kwanzaa-kuh by caroling and giving the gift of holiday cheer!"

–*Benny the Bear-a-medic, EMSC Program logo*

PECARN Update: Network Celebrates Major Accomplishment

In September, *The Lancet* published the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network's (PECARN) study on [developing a neuroimaging clinical decision rule for children with mild to moderate head trauma](#). A substantial percentage of children who receive computed tomography (CT) scans after head trauma do not need them, and as a result are put at increased risk of cancer due to radiation exposure.

This study enrolled more than 42,000 patients and researchers found that one in five children older than age two and nearly one-quarter of those younger than two who received CT scans following a head trauma did not need the scan because they were at very low risk of having serious brain injuries. In these low-risk children, the risk of developing cancer due to radiation exposure outweighed the risk of serious brain injury.

NEDARC Staff Member to Be Published

Andrea Genovesi, education coordinator for the National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC), was recently notified that her manuscript "Comparison of newspaper information to official document sources for violent deaths" was accepted for publication in *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. It is currently ePublished and will be published in the paper version of the journal soon.

Targeted Issue Update: Congratulations to Joel Fein, MD

The EMSC Program congratulates EMSC Targeted Issue (TI) Grantee Joel Fein, MD, whose article "Patients' and Caregivers' Beliefs About Depression Screening and Referral in the Emergency Department" appeared in the November 2009 issue of *Pediatric Emergency Care* (Vol.25, Issue 11).

The article examines patient and caregiver beliefs about the acceptability of universal depression screening in the emergency department, and their perception of barriers to referrals following a positive screen. The study, which was supported through a TI grant, found that patients and caregivers generally support depression screening in the pediatric emergency department and identified several barriers to screening and referral for treatment. Recommendations include an introduction of universal screening early in the emergency department visit, provision of specific information about the meaning of screening results, and support from family and health care providers to help reduce stigma and increase referral acceptability.

Genovesi AL, Donaldson A, Morrison B, and Olson LM. Comparison of newspaper information to official document sources for violent deaths. Accident Analysis and Prevention. Online publication complete: 14-OCT-2009 DOI information: 10.1016/j.aap.2009.09.006. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aap.2009.09.006>

January 18- 21: PECARN Meeting in San Francisco, CA
January 26, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.: NRC Town Hall Conference Call
April 13-14: PECARN Steering Committee Meeting, San Antonio, TX
April 14, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.: NRC Town Hall Conference Call
May 18-22: National EMS Week
May 20: National EMSC Day
May 25-27: Annual EMSC Program Meeting, Bethesda, MD
July 14, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.: NRC Town Hall Conference Call
August 25-27: NEDARC Scientific Grant Writing Workshop, Chicago, IL

Events Calendar