

For More Information About the NRC...

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Helping to Improve the Care of Ill and Injured Children



EMSC National Resource Center



Child Health
Advocacy Institute



Are ill and injured children receiving the best care possible in your community?

Before answering this question, keep these facts in mind. Children respond differently to illness or injury than do adults. They have different physical, emotional, and psychological needs, and suffer from a different spectrum of diseases and injuries. Equipment, supplies, and medication dosages must be available for children of all sizes to get the best care during emergencies and disasters.

The communities best prepared to handle childhood emergencies are those with properly trained emergency personnel, sufficiently equipped ambulances and emergency departments, and well-defined pediatric treatment protocols and procedures. Effective injury prevention programs are another key factor to ensuring a safe and healthy community.

The EMSC National Resource Center works with each state, U.S. territory, and many national organizations to identify the resources needed to organize and implement activities designed help improve the care for ill and injured children.

What Is the EMSC National Resource Center?

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) National Resource Center (NRC), located just outside Washington, DC, 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.

Are the NRC and the Federal EMSC Program One in the Same?

The NRC and the Federal EMSC Program are separate entities. 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 received 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 – no matter where they live, attend school, or travel – 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.

How Do the NRC and NEDARC Differ?

The National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC), based in Salt Lake City, UT, also receives federal funding through the EMSC Program. It is considered a sister organization to the NRC. However, NEDARC's primary focus is on data management. Its goal is to help grantees and EMS offices develop their capabilities to collect, analyze, and utilize EMS data. For more information about NEDARC, visit: <http://www.nedarc.org>.

What Services Does the NRC Provide?

Provides Technical Assistance to EMSC Program Grantees. The NRC works with each grantee to improve existing emergency medical services (EMS) systems and to develop and evaluate improved procedures and protocols for treating children. Specifically, the NRC provides guidance in project management, identification of resources and model programs, grant writing, grant management, strategic planning, and project dissemination.

Maintains Partnerships with National and Professional Organizations. The NRC currently works with more than 20 national and professional organizations to identify and address the key issues affecting EMSC, including, but not limited to: managed care, disaster preparedness, children with special health care needs, mental health, family-centered care, and cultural diversity. The Center develops national task forces and publishes comprehensive reports drawing attention to many of these critical issues.

Collaborates with Federal Organizations. In keeping with EMSC's commitment to research, the NRC collaborates with numerous federal agencies (known collectively as the Interagency Committee on EMSC Research) to improve the quality and quantity of EMSC research, to foster collaboration between federal agencies in highlighting EMSC research topics during development of research agendas, and to reduce barriers to the production of high quality EMSC research. The NRC also collaborates with the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network or PECARN (<http://www.pecarn.org>), the first federally funded pediatric emergency medicine research network in the United States. In addition, the NRC works with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Indian Health Services, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on many research and non-research activities, when needed.

Serves as an Informational Clearinghouse. The NRC serves as the primary conduit for Federal EMSC Program communications. It is responsible for distributing *EMSC QuickNews*, a weekly electronic newsletter featuring information about EMSC Program activities, recently released studies and reports, and upcoming events. The NRC also maintains the official Federal EMSC Program website (<http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/emsc>) and the NRC website (<http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc>). In addition, the Center serves as the clearinghouse for all EMSC grant-funded products and resources. The EMSC Products and Resource Database is searchable through the NRC website. Those products and resources that are not available via the website as downloadable documents are available by contacting the NRC resource specialist. In 2010, the NRC launched its Facebook and Twitter sites and a YouTube Channel in an effort to increase EMSC's online visibility.

Plans the Annual EMSC Program Meeting and National Heroes Awards. Each Spring/early Summer, the EMSC Program hosts the Annual EMSC Program Meeting. The NRC is responsible for planning all educational activities and special meetings/events, recruiting speakers, providing logistical support, and ensuring the availability of continuing education units for physicians, nurses, and prehospital providers. The NRC is also tasked with overseeing the National Heroes Awards.

Supports Federal Program Staff. The NRC is often assigned special projects to assist federal staff in the management and evaluation of overall Program goals and activities. In the past, these have included: developing performance measures that are specific to the EMSC Program; creating reports for national distribution (e.g., the 10-year Retrospective Report, the 20-year Report, the Five-year Plan, and the Three-year Strategic Plan); organizing webcasts through mchcom.com; and assembling "how-to" guides to assist grantees with specific project tasks, such as establishing effective leadership within the state.

Oversees the Family Advisory Network. The EMSC Family Advisory Network (FAN) is an alliance of family representatives who support state EMSC program staff by sharing their expertise and life experiences as consumers of the EMS system.