



OHIO

EMSC State Partnership Program

OHIO EMSC NEWSLETTER

Welcome

Welcome to the August 2026 issue of the Ohio EMSC Newsletter! As we continue advancing pediatric readiness across Ohio, this month's issue brings you new resources, timely program updates, and a range of educational opportunities to support your ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality emergency care for children.

PECCs: Turning Pediatric Readiness into Action

As Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) continue to gain visibility across Ohio, one question is frequently asked by EMS agencies and emergency departments alike: "What does a PECC actually do?"

Often referred to as a *pediatric champion*, a PECC helps ensure EMS agencies and emergency departments follow nationally recommended practices for pediatric emergency care.

Responsibilities may include supporting pediatric education, maintaining pediatric equipment and supplies, promoting quality improvement initiatives, reviewing policies and protocols, and helping strengthen overall pediatric readiness through a collaborative, organization-wide commitment.

The PECC role is one of the most effective strategies for improving pediatric readiness. National research has demonstrated that emergency departments with PECCs achieve significantly higher Pediatric Readiness scores, and many leading organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, and Emergency Nurses Association, recommend PECCs as a key component of pediatric emergency care.

In emergency departments, both a physician (or advanced practice provider) and nurse PECC are recommended, while EMS agencies may designate a medical director, chief officer, educator, EMT, paramedic, or utilize a shared team approach.

Whether you are already serving as a PECC or interested in establishing the role within your organization, numerous resources are available to support you. The EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC) PECC webpage includes PECC overview materials, role descriptions, educational modules, implementation guidance, EMS- and ED-specific resources, quality improvement tools, and information on current PECC-focused initiatives and research.

Have You Confirmed Your PECC Information?

As Ohio EMSC continues developing new PECC resources, networking opportunities, and initiatives, we encourage current PECCs to ensure their information is up to date through the **[PECC Contact Portal](#)**.

Visit the [EIIC PECC webpage](#) and the [Ohio EMSC website](#) to explore available resources and strengthen pediatric readiness within your organization.

New Regional EMS Pediatric Readiness Reports Available

For the first time, Ohio EMS agencies and pediatric stakeholders can now explore regional pediatric readiness findings from the 2024 Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP).

Following a request from one of Ohio's regional pediatric committees, Ohio EMSC partnered with the EMSC Data Center to develop customized reports for each of Ohio's eight EMS regions. These reports provide a regional view of pediatric readiness, allowing agencies, regional committees, EMS leaders, and pediatric stakeholders to better understand how readiness varies across the state. Ohio EMSC extends sincere appreciation to the EMSC Data Center team for their collaboration in developing these Ohio-specific resources.

The reports highlight key findings related to pediatric equipment, education, quality improvement activities, Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs), and other readiness measures reported by EMS agencies that participated in the 2024 PPRP.

Visit the Ohio EMSC website to [access your region's report](#) and learn where your region's greatest strengths and opportunities for improvement exist. These reports can help guide discussions, planning efforts, and future initiatives to strengthen pediatric readiness across Ohio.

Research Spotlight: New PECARN Study on Pulmonary Embolism

The Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN), the research arm of the federal Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program, continues to advance evidence-based pediatric emergency care through national research studies.

A newly published PECARN study, BEEPER (Bedside Exclusion of Pulmonary Embolism without Radiation in Children), evaluated whether clinicians can safely rule out pulmonary embolism (PE) in children using PERC-Peds, a pediatric adaptation of the adult Pulmonary Embolism Rule-out Criteria.

Pulmonary embolism is uncommon in children, making diagnosis particularly challenging when symptoms overlap with more common pediatric conditions. Conducted across 21 emergency departments, the study provides the first prospective evidence supporting a validated clinical decision rule to identify children at very low risk for PE. These findings may help reduce unnecessary diagnostic testing and radiation exposure while supporting safe, evidence-based clinical decision-making for pediatric patients.

[Click here to access and read the study.](#)

Expanding Opportunities for Pediatric Education

There has never been a better time to expand your pediatric emergency care knowledge. Across Ohio and the nation, the number of pediatric-focused conferences, webinars, trainings, and educational programs continues to grow, offering EMS and ED professionals more opportunities than ever to learn, network, and strengthen pediatric readiness.

Many of these opportunities offer **continuing education credit**, are available virtually or in person, and are often **free or offered at low cost**. In fact, there are now so many pediatric-focused educational offerings coming up that we can hardly fit them all into a single newsletter issue!

Be sure to visit the Events & Training section on the final page of this newsletter and regularly check the [Ohio EMSC Events & Training Calendar](#) on our website for the latest opportunities.

To help keep these opportunities front and center, Ohio EMSC will soon launch **Featured Education Friday**, a recurring social media spotlight highlighting upcoming conferences, webinars, and training events designed to support EMS and ED professionals caring for children.

Your next pediatric learning opportunity may be closer than you think.

Ohio EMSC on the Road

Speaking of education and outreach, Ohio EMSC Project Coordinator Kyle Smith recently had the opportunity to present at the Ohio Rural Health Association Annual Conference in Wooster, Ohio, where he led a session focused on pediatric readiness in rural health care settings.

A key message of the presentation was that rural health does not equal limited pediatric readiness. In fact, rural hospitals, emergency departments, EMS agencies, and healthcare professionals play an essential role in ensuring children have access to high-quality emergency care close to home and often serving as the first point in emergency care before transfer or specialty care is available. Pediatric readiness is not determined by size or location, but by a commitment to continuous improvement to the most critical elements of pediatric care.

Ohio EMSC extends its appreciation to the Ohio Rural Health Association for the opportunity to share the importance of pediatric readiness with rural healthcare leaders from across the state.

Interested in bringing a pediatric readiness presentation to your conference, meeting, or event? Ohio EMSC is always looking for opportunities to engage with EMS, emergency department, hospital, and healthcare audiences on the growing importance of pediatric readiness. Reach out to learn more about speaking opportunities and available presentation topics.

Upcoming Trainings & Events

Stay connected with pediatric emergency care opportunities statewide! Ohio EMSC offers a live calendar of hands-on and virtual trainings, symposiums, and conferences for EMS and ED professionals. Check our website for the latest updates.

Have an event you'd like to share with a broader audience? Email us or visit the Ohio EMSC website to submit your event to be listed on our Training & Events Calendar.

- **9/25/2026:** 2026 Ohio State University Trauma Conference [In-Person; Columbus, OH]
- **10/09/2026:** Nationwide Children's Hospital EMS Pediatric Education Day [In-Person, Columbus, OH]
- **10/21/2026:** Ohio EMSC Webinar: Pediatric CPAP in EMS: Practical Considerations for Early Intervention [Virtual]
- **11/17-18/2026:** Ohio EMS Chiefs Association Leadership Conference [In-Person; Newark, OH]
- **12/4/2026:** Ohio-Kentucky Emergency Nurses Association Education Conference [In-Person; Erlanger, KY]
- **03/05/2027:** **4th Annual Ohio EMSC Conference** [In-Person; Columbus, OH]

Thank you for reading the August 2026 issue of the Ohio EMSC Newsletter. Stay tuned for future issues featuring new insights, resources, and upcoming events for EMS and ED professionals. Have questions or suggestions? Reach out using the contact information below—we'd love to hear from you!

Resources & Information

Ohio Resources:

[Ohio EMSC Website](#)

Ohio EMSC General Email: OhioEMSC@nationwidechildrens.org

Ohio EMSC State Partnership Program Manager Email: [Kyle Smith](#)

[Ohio ED PECC Contact Portal](#)

[Ohio EMS PECC Contact Portal](#)

National Resources:

[EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center](#)

[National Pediatric Readiness Project](#) (Hospital)

[Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project](#) (EMS)

[Pediatric Pandemic Network](#)

[Region V for Kids](#) (ASPR)

[Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program](#)

[EMSC Pulse Newsletter](#)

[EMSC ED PECC Learning Modules](#)

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