



OHIO

EMSC State Partnership Program

OHIO EMSC NEWSLETTER

Welcome

Welcome to the October 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.

Celebrating Emergency Nurses Week

This week, we proudly recognize and celebrate Emergency Nurses Week. Every day, emergency nurses are at the bedside of children and families during some of their most challenging moments, providing expert clinical care, advocacy, education, leadership, and compassion.

Emergency nurses are essential champions of Pediatric Readiness, helping ensure that every child receives safe, high-quality emergency care when it matters most.

Thank you to all emergency nurses across Ohio and beyond for your dedication and commitment to improving outcomes for children.

New Publication Highlights Barriers to Pediatric Readiness in Trauma Centers

What stands in the way of achieving optimal Pediatric Readiness in trauma centers, and how can we address those challenges? A newly published article, *Promoting Optimal Pediatric Readiness at US Trauma Centers: Understanding and Addressing Barriers*, explores key obstacles facing trauma centers and identifies opportunities to strengthen readiness systems nationwide.

The publication examines challenges such as staffing, education and training, resource availability, and organizational support that can affect a trauma center's ability to implement and sustain Pediatric Readiness efforts. It also highlights strategies and best practices that organizations can use to overcome those barriers and strengthen care for injured children. As Pediatric Readiness continues to receive increased attention at both the state and national levels, understanding these challenges is essential for building systems that support better outcomes.

For trauma and hospital leaders, PECCs, and quality improvement teams, this publication provides valuable insights into advancing pediatric emergency and trauma care.



[Click here to read the full article](#)

Help Us Recognize Ohio's Pediatric Clinical Saves

Every day across Ohio, EMS professionals and emergency department teams make a difference in the lives of critically ill and injured children. The Ohio EMSC Pediatric Clinical Save Awards honor EMS agencies and emergency department teams that demonstrate excellence in pediatric emergency care and showcase the real-world impact of Pediatric Readiness. Behind every nomination is a story of preparation, teamwork, leadership, and commitment to providing the best possible care for children when it matters most.

We are still seeking more nominations for both **EMS and Emergency Department teams**. If your organization experienced a pediatric case with a positive outcome, exceptional teamwork, innovative problem-solving, or outstanding patient care, we encourage you to share that story. Whether the event occurred recently or earlier in the year, we want to hear about it!

Please consider sharing the award flyer with your EMS agencies, emergency departments, Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs), and clinical leaders. Many deserving teams may simply be waiting for someone to tell their story.

Nominations for the 2026 awards will remain open through **January 8, 2027**. Award recipients will be recognized during the 2027 Ohio EMSC Annual Conference on **March 5, 2027**, in Columbus.

The nomination process is quick and easy, but time is running short. Help us recognize the incredible work being done across Ohio and ensure these stories of pediatric excellence receive the recognition they deserve.

 Submit a nomination today and share the flyer with your EMS and ED partners.

[Click here to submit a nomination.](#)

New Toolkit Available: Child Reunification Considerations for Communities

When disasters strike, children have unique developmental, behavioral, and emotional needs that must be considered during reunification efforts. The Pediatric Prevention Network recently launched the Child Reunification Considerations for Communities Toolkit, a new resource designed for emergency management, healthcare organizations, community partners, and more to be involved in disaster response and recovery.

The toolkit highlights children's unique vulnerabilities, promotes collaboration among stakeholders, and helps communities identify preparedness gaps before a disaster occurs. It also provides practical considerations for planning, communication, and coordination activities that support the safe and timely reunification of children with their families and caregivers.

 [Access the toolkit today.](#)

Ohio EMSC Reaches a New Milestone in Pediatric Readiness Recognition

Ohio EMSC is proud to announce the recognition of our first two Comprehensive Tier Pediatric Readiness Facilities. With these additions, Ohio now has four emergency departments recognized through the Pediatric Readiness Facility Recognition Program. Each recognized facility reflects a commitment to strengthening pediatric emergency care systems and improving outcomes for ill and injured children in their communities.

The momentum continues to build, with several additional hospitals currently progressing through the recognition process. As more facilities engage in readiness efforts, Ohio continues to move closer to ensuring that every child receives the best care, every time.

Interested in learning more? Ohio EMSC offers no-obligation discovery calls to help emergency department leaders, PECCs, and their teams further understand the recognition process and determine whether participation may be right for their facility.

View the recognition map and [visit our website to learn more about the program](#), or contact Ohio EMSC manager, Kyle Smith, to schedule a discovery call.



Resources to Strengthen Pediatric Mental Health Care

Last week marked National Mental Illness Awareness Week, and October 10 marked World Mental Health Day. These observances serve as important reminders that behavioral and mental health needs continue to impact children, adolescents, and the healthcare professionals who care for them.

The EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC) offers a variety of pediatric mental and behavioral health resources designed to improve care for children experiencing mental health emergencies. The PMHCA Technical Assistance (TA) Toolkit is a dynamic resource designed to help Pediatric Mental Health Care Access (PMHCA) programs enhance collaboration between emergency departments, pediatricians, and mental health providers.

Divided into eight sections, it provides practical guidance, workflows, and quality improvement (QI) strategies to improve responses for children in mental and behavioral health crises. Programs can use the toolkit step by step or adapt it to their specific needs, ultimately helping to create stronger pathways for pediatric mental health care.



[Access the Toolkit today.](#)

New Research Reinforces the Importance of Pediatric Readiness

A newly published study led by Oregon Health & Science University examined outcomes across more than 700 hospitals in 11 states and found compelling evidence linking Pediatric Readiness to child survival.

Researchers estimated that over a ten-year period:

- Loss of high ED Pediatric Readiness was associated with **1,727** excess pediatric deaths.
- Hospitals that never achieved high Pediatric Readiness were associated with **3,776** excess pediatric deaths.
- Loss of pediatric inpatient services was associated with **1,657** excess pediatric deaths.
- Hospitals that never had pediatric inpatient services were associated with **3,745** excess pediatric deaths.

The findings underscore what many of us already know: Pediatric Readiness is not simply a one-time achievement. It is a critical sustainment component in delivering better outcomes for ill and injured children. The study further reinforces the importance of continued investment in pediatric-focused efforts and resources to ensure healthcare systems remain prepared to care for children when emergencies occur.

 [Click here to read the full article](#)

Upcoming EMSC Educational Opportunities

There are numerous opportunities over the coming months for EMS clinicians, nurses, physicians, PECCs, and healthcare leaders to expand their pediatric knowledge and strengthen readiness efforts.

Upcoming opportunities include:

- **October 21, 2026:** *Ohio EMSC Webinar: Pediatric CPAP in EMS* (includes **1 hour of free EMS continuing education credit**)
- **November 2, 2026:** *Midwest EMSC Pre-Hospital Pediatric Symposium* (includes **2 hours of free EMS continuing education credit**, offered through multiple Midwest EMSC programs with reciprocity)
- **March 5, 2027:** *4th Annual Ohio EMSC Conference* (offering **7.25 continuing education credits for EMS, nursing, and physicians** at an affordable registration rate. Early-bird registration is now open for a limited time)

In addition to these educational offerings and our popular Featured Education Friday social media series, the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC) regularly hosts free national webinars ([Pediatric Readiness Education Series](#)) for both prehospital and hospital professionals. Many of these include free continuing education credit and provide access to pediatric subject matter experts, national best practices, and emerging topics in pediatric emergency care.

Be sure to watch your email, follow Ohio EMSC on social media, and visit our website regularly for registration information and upcoming educational opportunities from Ohio EMSC, the EIIC, and our Midwest EMSC partners.

Upcoming Events & Training

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 [Events & Training Calendar](#).

- **October 21, 2026:** 2026 Pediatric EMS Symposium presented by Dayton Children's Hospital [Virtual and In-Person, Dayton, OH]
- **October 28, 2026:** Pediatric and Neonatal Resuscitation & Procedural Sim Course [In-Person; Akron, OH]
- **November 12, 2026:** Butler County EMS Conference [In-Person; West Chester Township, OH]
- **November 17-18, 2026:** Ohio EMS Chiefs Association Leadership Conference [In-Person; Newark, OH]
- **December 3-4, 2026:** Ohio-Kentucky Emergency Nurses Association CPEN and Education Conference [In-Person; Erlanger, KY]
- **March 5, 2027:** 4th Annual Ohio EMSC Conference [In-Person; Columbus, OH]

Thank you for reading the October 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 Prevention Network

Region V for Kids (ASPR)

Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program

EMSC Pulse Newsletter

EMSC ED PECC Learning Modules

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Read more on our website: [Ohio EMSC & PECC Website](#)