



11

States that have Pediatric Medical Recognition Programs to stabilize/manage pediatric medical emergencies:
Alaska, Arizona, California, Delaware, Illinois, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia.



What do all 11 states mentioned above have in common?

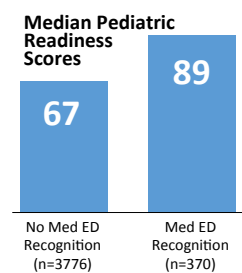
- A lead agency/organization with authority to define essential pediatric standards and implement a process to verify the pediatric capabilities of facilities.
- Partners engaged in defining recognition criteria and assist with verification efforts.
- Well-defined standards outlining essential resources required to provide effective care.
- A verification process to assure compliance with the standards, including specific procedures for site reviewers.
- An application process for hospitals participating in the program, as well as incentives for those meeting established standards.
- A well- defined plan to assure sustainability of the recognition program, which may include the development of formal state regulations addressing the pediatric facility recognition program.

What is a Pediatric Hospital Recognition Program?

A pediatric hospital recognition program designates and verifies a hospital’s capacity to provide care to children. The program establishes standards that define the essential capabilities and resources needed by these facilities to include: staff competencies and training; availability of pediatric equipment, supplies, and medications; and the inclusion of guidelines and agreements or other processes to assure the quality of care rendered. For instance, pediatric transfer guidelines and agreements, pediatric quality improvement processes, and pediatric patient safety considerations.

Why is it important to assess and Formally Recognize the readiness of facilities to care for children?

Approximately 90% of children needing emergency care are first treated at a local community emergency department (ED). Pediatric recognition/verification programs are associated with greater pediatric ED readiness as measured by the 2013-14 Pediatric Readiness Assessment*. In fact, EDs that are formally recognized scored **22 points higher**** than EDs without a formal recognition program. Hospital EDs verified as pediatric ready have identified pediatric emergency care coordinators and established pediatric specific quality improvement indicators and initiatives more frequently in place. While local pediatric readiness assessments are a key essential first step, pediatric recognition and verification processes support day to day readiness for emergency care of pediatric patients.



*Not all states listed above had recognized hospitals that participated in the 2013-14 Pediatric Readiness Assessment.

**95% confidence interval (20.3, 22.9) does not contain 0 which indicates that the difference of median scores is statistically significant.

References:

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