

We're Gaining Weight!

3 out of 4 Hospital Emergency Departments Nationwide
Weigh and Record Children in Kilograms



Weighing and recording pediatric patients in kilograms reduces medication errors

Treating ill and injured pediatric patients can be challenging, in part because medication dosing is weight-based and requires an accurate weight in kilograms for dosing calculations. Medication errors in the emergency setting are common and can lead to significant patient harm.¹ These errors can be caused by several factors, but weighing **and** recording a pediatric patient's weight in **kilograms only** prevents medication dosing errors.²

Learn more about pediatric readiness improvement opportunities

In accordance with the Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Departments (ED) joint guidelines and studies referenced, the HRSA MCHB³ Federal EMS for Children (EMSC) Program is helping to improve care of pediatric patients and to ensure a child's weight is measured and recorded in kilograms only. Since 2013, the Program and national partners have led the [National Pediatric Readiness Project \(NPRP\)](#); a multi-phase quality improvement (QI) initiative based on the joint guidelines (including weighing and recording in kg) to ensure that all U.S. EDs have the essential guidelines and resources in place to provide effective emergency care to children.

Visit pedsready.org to complete the NPRP Assessment TODAY and assess your hospital ED's pediatric readiness. Access resources, toolkits, and more to improve care for children in your ED.

References:

¹Ward CE, Taylor M, Keeney C, et al. [The Effect of Documenting Patient Weight in Kilograms on Pediatric Medication Dosing Errors in Emergency Medical Services](#). *Prehosp Emerg Care*. 2022 Feb 3;1-6. Wong I, Ghaleb MA, Franklin BD, Barber N. [Incidence and nature of dosing errors in paediatric medications: a systematic review](#). *Drug Saf*. 2004;27(9):661-70.

²Hirata KM, Kang AH, Ramirez GV, et al. [Pediatric Weight Errors and Resultant Medication Dosing Errors in the Emergency Department](#). *Pediatr Emerg Care*. 2019 Sep;35(9):637-642. Shaw KN, Lillis KA, Ruddy RM, et al, Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network. [Reported medication events in a paediatric emergency research network: sharing to improve patient safety](#). *Emerg Med J*. 2013 Oct;30(10):815-9. Benjamin L, Frush K, Shaw K, Shook JE, et al. *Ann Emerg Med*. 2018 Mar;71(3):e17-e24.

³Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.