

EMSC Update

Newsletter of the NYS
EMSC Program
Spring 1999 Issue

1999 Annual EMSC Grantee Meeting

From January 31, 1999 – February 2, 1999 the EMSC Coordinator, Gloria Hale, and the Assistant Director of the Bureau of EMS, Marjorie Geiger, attended the 1999 Annual EMSC Grantee Meeting held in Washington, D.C. A number of workshops and plenary sessions were given on topics ranging from meeting the growing needs of an increasingly diverse population of children in the U.S., marketing programs through the media, and prehospital and emergency department care of the technology dependent child. Opportunities were also provided for networking with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and a wide variety of national organizations such as the American Trauma Society, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Kiwanis International, and the Emergency Nurses Association just to name a few.

In addition, the NYS EMSC Coordinator had an

opportunity to showcase the state's progress in meeting its EMSC goals. She presented information to attendees on the development of creative and successful partnerships in the state to achieve specific objectives. These included training EMS instructors on prehospital pediatrics and working to ensure the inclusion of emergency care guidelines in health care plans for day care centers.

Our partners at the Center for Pediatric Emergency Medicine (CPEM), whose offices are located at Bellevue Hospital in NYC, were co-recipients of the 1999 EMSC National Heroes Awards in the Innovation in EMSC Product Development category for the Teaching Resource for Instructors in Prehospital Pediatrics. In addition, CPEM's Executive Administrator, Marsha Treiber, MHA, was co-recipient for the EMSC Project Coordinator Distinction Award. We congratulate you!

EMSC-Related Internet Resources

www.nysgtsc.state.ny.us

This is the web site of the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles, Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC). GTSC coordinates traffic safety activities in the state. It acts as the state's official liaison with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and works closely with state and local agencies, non-profit organizations and private sector partners to deliver quality traffic safety information, projects and services across the state. The web site contains information about the make-up of the committee, staff, planning activities, grants, and programs it administers. It also contains a handy calendar of upcoming traffic safety-related events.

www.webmedlit.com

This web site provides access to current editions of twenty-two medical journals.

www.mediconsult.com

This site provides access to a variety of health and medical information news. It also contains drug-specific pharmacy information.

www.ichp.edu/cshcn_misc/materials

The Institute for Child Health Policy contains a section on developing a Care Notebook for families with children with special health care needs. The Care Notebook is an organizer used to keep track of important information about a child's health and care. A Care Notebook or an emergency care plan for children with special health care needs can be extremely helpful to emergency care providers and other members of a child's health care team to help them deliver the most effective and appropriate care. The site also contains many forms families may fill in to keep track of their child's health care information.

www.guideline.gov

This is the web site of the National Guideline Clearinghouse. It contains nearly 400 clinical practice guidelines and was developed by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, in partnership with the American Medical Association and the American Association of Health Plans. It serves as a resource for physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals. It is continually updated to reflect the most recent clinical practice guidelines.

Intern assists EMSC Program

The NYS EMSC Program is pleased to have Rick Haldeman III, a graduate student at the State University of New York at Albany, School of Public Health, working on a graduate assistantship with us. The program received funding for his assistantship through a joint program of the Department's Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program and the School of Public Health. Rick has taken on an important role with the EMSC Program in relation to one of our key deliverables. He is updating statistics for the modification of the Prehospital Pediatric Care Course: A Continuing Education Course for EMTs. He is also investigating various approaches to rolling out the curriculum once it is finalized in early 2000. He will be assisting the program through the Spring semester.

REMINDER:

Don't forget to check the Bureau of EMS web page frequently for updates on EMSC activities! It's www.health.state.ny.us, click on Info for Providers, then Bureau of Emergency Medical Services. EMSC information can be found in the Newsletter section of the site.

CPEM Paramedic Version of the TRIPP is Underway

The Center for Pediatric Emergency Medicine (CPEM), a leading group of national experts in pediatric EMS, is in the process of developing an instructors' resource to be used in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's newly revised *National Standard Curriculum for Paramedics and Intermediate EMTs*.

CPEM was established in 1985 at New York University Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital Center in New York City. Staff members include George Foltin MD, Director; Marsha Treiber MPS, Executive Director; Sarah Gagnon, Project Assistant; and Michael Tunik MD, Arthur Cooper MD and David Markenson MD, EMT-P as primary faculty and members of the Board of Directors.

The mission of the Center for Pediatric Emergency Medicine (CPEM) is to improve emergency medical services for children in the United States through education, research, and systems development.

As with the original TRIPP, draft chapters are being presented at national conferences as well as

regional workshops in urban, suburban, and rural settings to obtain feedback from the paramedic instructors for whom the resource is ultimately intended. In addition, an 18-member panel, made up of representatives from all major EMS and pediatric organizations around the country, will also review the chapters.

Rollouts of the new instructor resource for paramedics and Intermediate EMTs are planned for the beginning of 2000 at the National Congress on Childhood Emergencies, JEMS Outlook 2000, and NAEMSP Annual Meeting.

In addition, CPEM has launched a quarterly electronic newsletter that will provide a forum for new information relevant to pediatric prehospital care. *CPEM Bear Facts: A Quarterly Newsletter from the Center for Pediatric Emergency Medicine*. The newsletter discusses improvements or changes in medical practice, regional differences in the delivery of pediatric prehospital care, and ongoing discussion of controversial issues. The third issue is scheduled to be posted on CPEM's website, www.cpem.org, in April.

For further information on the new TRIPP resource on

CPEM in general, contact: Marsha Treiber, Executive Director, CPEM
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212/562-2474 *fax*
Info@cpem.org *e-mail* •
- submitted by Marsha Treiber, CPEM

NYS Child Passenger Safety Task Force

The New York State Child Passenger Safety Task Force was formed in April 1998 to coordinate child passenger safety activities being conducted by different organizations. Member organizations include SAFE KIDS, NYS Association of Fire Chiefs, NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control, International Association of Chiefs of Police, NYS Police, NYS Health Department, NYS Department of Motor Vehicles and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, and the Emergency Nurses Association. Additional members include staff from hospitals, county health departments and others. During its first meeting, the Task Force worked to avoid duplication of services, to focus on underserved areas of the state, and to coordinate the rapidly emerging availability of child safety seat installation training.

The top priority identified by the Task Force was to

build the state's infrastructure by getting as many non-certified child safety seat technicians trained as possible. After completing a 2-day training session, non-certified child safety seat technicians can work at a car safety seat checkpoint as long as there is a certified child safety seat technician present.
(*Con't on p. 6*)

EMS Cares About Preventing Childhood Injuries!

WHALE Child Car Seat Program Launched in Western New York

Twin City Ambulance, a provider in the Buffalo, New York area, has recently introduced the WHALE bike helmet and car safety seat program. WHALE stands for We Have A Little Emergency.

The WHALE Program is an identification and information package for child safety seats created by Connie Day, a caregiver from Richmond, Virginia, who wondered what would happen to the children in her care in the event of an automobile accident. The first program of its kind in the U.S., WHALE is currently used in 32 states.

WHALE requires the use of four self-adhesive stickers and one informational label. The informational label is attached to the rear of the car seat and provides important information about that child in the seat, such as name, date of birth, medical history, and who to contact in case of an emergency. A photo of the child is placed in a provided space, and is updated as the child grows. Once this label is placed on the back of the seat, the information will not be visible from the outside of the vehicle, thus ensuring the privacy of personal facts.

Two WHALE Car Seat Stickers, attached to the sides of the safety seat, and two WHALE vehicle stickers, attached to the rear side windows of the vehicle, depict the WHALE logo and alert rescuers that the vehicle occupants participate in the program.

An additional part of the program is an information sticker to be placed inside a child's bike helmet. This sticker has contact information in case of injury to the child.

Twin City Ambulance is one of several agencies to sponsor this program in New York State. Any agency wishing to get program materials or to

sponsor this program in their area can get information from Twin City Ambulance at (716) 692-2458, ext. 223 or write:

WHALE PROGRAM
Twin City Ambulance
1001 Erie Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY
14120

Online information can be found at www.TwinCityAmbulance.com

*- submitted by
Victoria Clark-Prince,
Twin City Ambulance*

NYS EMSC Subcommittee holds its first meeting of 1999

The 1st meeting of the year for the NYS EMSC Subcommittee took place on March 11, 1999 in the Capital District. Updates were given on the EMSC Program's activities, current legislative issues were reviewed, and members heard from two guest speakers. Ms. Marilyn Elson, a parent of a child with special health care needs, discussed an important program. It involves teaching medical residents in pediatrics and family practice about families with children and adults with developmental disabilities – in particular, how they can better communicate with them.

The second guest speaker was Mr. Peter Gallagher, a Bureau Director in the NYS Department of Health's Office of Medicaid Management. Mr. Gallagher presented an overview of Medicaid data collected and analyzed by the Department, including a review of the top 50 diagnoses for children receiving care in the emergency department as Medicaid recipients.

Subcommittee members identified a number of future activities based on previously identified priority areas. A work group was formed to develop a pediatric prehospital care reference card for use by prehospital providers. Members expect to have a draft of the card by their next meeting, scheduled for early June 1999.

Additional objectives for the future included organizing another statewide EMSC forum; developing a training module in emergency care for the day care providers; and conducting a post-TRIPP survey to assess the extent of its use throughout the state.

New York State, Five Leading Causes of Death by Age Group

1993				1995			
Age	Cause of Death	N	%	Cause of Death	N	%	
<1	Perinatal Conditions	1277	54.4	Perinatal Conditions	1142	55.4	
	Congenital Anomalies	467	19.9	Congenital Anomalies	433	21.0	
	SIDS	202	8.6	SIDS	154	7.5	
	Pneumonia	38	1.6	Heart Diseases	33	1.6	
	Accidents	35	1.5	Accidents	33	1.6	
	Total Causes		2,347	Total Causes		2,062	
1-9	Accidents	185	26.9	Accidents	141	21.7	
	AIDS	90	13.1	AIDS	105	16.2	
	Congenital Anomalies	77	11.2	Congenital Anomalies	77	11.9	
	Malignant Neoplasms	68	9.9	Malignant Neoplasms	52	8.0	
	Homicide /Legal	50	7.3	Homicide/Legal	37	5.7	
	Total Causes		689	Total Causes		649	
10-19	Homicide /Legal	330	30.1	Accidents	336	34.0	
	Accidents	315	28.7	Homicide/Legal	210	21.3	
	Suicide	86	7.8	Suicide	96	9.7	
	Malignant Neoplasms	77	7.0	Malignant Neoplasms	91	9.2	
	Heart Diseases	44	4.0	Congenital Anomalies	29	2.9	
	Total Causes		1,098	Total Causes		988	

Infant Mortality (< 1 yr.)

The infant mortality rate in NYS from 1993-1995 was 7.9 per 1,000 live births. This is a decrease from the 1990-1992 rate of 9.2 per 1,000 live births.

Unintentional Injury Hospitalizations

Unintentional injuries accounted for 20,112 hospitalizations for children 0-19 years old in 1995. This translates to a

rate of 400.4 per 100,000. In 1993 this rate was 463.4 per 100,000.

Asthma Hospitalizations

For the age group 0-4, the rate of asthma-related hospitalization in 1995 was 86.9 per 10,000, down from 92.3 per 10,000 in 1993. The rate for 10-14 yr. olds also declined from 31.9 per 1,000 in 1993 to 25.0 per 10,000 in 1995.

This data has been reprinted with permission from "New York State Touchstones 1998 Data Book", NYS Touchstones/ Kids Count.

EMSC Update is edited by Gloria Hale, Coordinator, NYS EMSC Program

National EMS Week is May 16-27, 1999
Check with your regional EMS Program Agency for information on activities.

2000 National Congress on Childhood Emergencies to be held March 26-29, 2000
SAVE THE DATE!

The EMSC **2000 National Congress on Childhood Emergencies** will be held March 26-29, 2000 at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland.

Learn about best practices, model programs and innovative strategies in improving quality across the spectrum of pediatric emergency care. America's children deserve the best. For details, contact the National EMSC Resource Center at (202) 884-4927 or visit www.ems-c.org.

**Vital Signs '99
Conference to
Include Best
Practices Poster
Session**

The New York State Bureau of Emergency Medical Services will sponsor a poster session for groups interested in presenting empirical research or critical analysis of a topic. The purpose of this session is to showcase Best Practices within the NYS EMS Community. Deadline for submission of poster session abstracts is May 31, 1999. If interested, please contact Kathleen Feeney at the EMS Office at (518) 402-0996, ext. 3.

(Task Force, con't from p.3)

Many EMS providers have already been trained and certified as car safety seat technicians throughout the state.

-submitted by Barry Gell, DOH Bureau of Injury Prevention

To become a certified child safety seat instructor, technician, non-certified technician, or, if you would like to be a child passenger safety awareness advocate, plan to attend a training course designed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

To find out when and where child safety seat installation training courses will be held, check the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee web site for an up-to-date listing at www.nysgtsc.state.ny.us

Save the Date!!
"Vital Signs
'99"
Saratoga Springs,
New York

Special thanks is extended to Rick Haldeman for his assistance with this issue.