



# Pediatric Support for Regional EMS Medical Direction PROPOSAL

Date: November 6, 2014

## Background:

Pediatric patients under 18 years of age patients historically represent less than 10% or approximately 25,000 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) encounters in Colorado based on 2013 data.

Children are anatomically, physiologically and developmentally different from adults and often require specialized care equipment, and protocols. While both EMS providers and EMS Medical Directors are skilled in the care of children, due to the low frequency of pediatric encounters, particularly encounters with critically ill and injured children, these providers may not be familiar with the most current and most effective practices regarding the emergency care of children. Subspecialty trained physicians in pediatric emergency medicine, by contrast, provide care to large numbers of children in all contexts, but may be less familiar with care provided by EMS or in rural facilities.

The national EMS for Children (EMSC) program is federally funded and is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Colorado has participated as a state partner in this program for over 20 years. The EMSC program focuses its efforts around 10 performance measures, two of which relate to availability of high quality EMS medical direction for pediatric patients. While this focus, particularly as it relates to on-line medical direction, is expected to change in 2017 and beyond, an additional emphasis on pediatric protocol development, evidence based care guidelines, training and quality improvement is expected.

Beginning in 2013 the State of Colorado has made a significant investment of more than \$300,000 in the development of regional EMS medical direction programs administered by Colorado's 11 RETACs in order to improve coordination among EMS medical directors and improve care on a regional level. These programs will seek funding for their second full year in March of 2015.

## Proposal:

In order to improve the quality of care provided to children in Colorado, to increase the specialized pediatric care resources available to Colorado's RETACs and to create professional relationships between EMS medical directors and pediatric

emergency medicine subspecialists, the Colorado EMS for Children program and the Pediatric Emergency Care Committee recommend that RETACs consider the addition of physician pediatric consultants to their regional EMS medical direction programs. A typical application of this consultation program would be as follows:

- Appoint a Regional Pediatric Physician Consultant with the following qualifications:
  - Colorado Licensed Physician
  - Board Certified in Pediatrics or Emergency Medicine with pediatric emergency medicine experience
  - Interest in EMS systems including system design, applicable regulations, training, practice and quality improvement.
  - Be available an average of 4 hours per month for consultation
  - Be willing to travel to the RETAC at least twice per year
  
- Duties of the Regional Pediatric Physician Consultant would include:
  - Coordinate activities with the Regional EMS Medical Director and/or regional medical direction committee as requested.
  - Maintain familiarity with current pediatric emergency care practices and research.
  - Provide guidance on development of pediatric related EMS protocols
  - Participate in quality improvement functions as requested
  - Advise and Assist with the delivery of pediatric EMS education
  
- Proposed Compensation
  - \$1,500 Annual Honorarium
  - \$750 Travel Expenses
  - \$2,250 Total

### **Discussion:**

Participation in the regional pediatric consultation program would be optional and would be subject to inclusion in the RETAC RMD program. The EMSC program and PECC would assist the RETACs in identifying suitable candidates. Multiple RETACs could work collectively to share a consultant if desired. Participation in the program would serve to both improve access to pediatric emergency care expertise and would assist pediatric specialists in better understanding the delivery of EMS across Colorado. Questions or comments can be directed to Colorado EMSC Program Manager Sean Caffrey at [sean.caffrey@ucdenver.edu](mailto:sean.caffrey@ucdenver.edu) or (303) 724-2565.

### **Attachments:**

- Maryland Associate Regional Pediatric Medical Director Role Description 2013
- Colorado EMS for Children Strategic Plan 2014