

May 2024



This document has been developed to assist EMS Agencies and fire/rescue services in completing the **National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project** (PPRP) survey. The survey has been designed for all states and US territories and therefore has some nuances that may confuse or do not apply to the Pennsylvania EMS system. Please read through the enclosed information for guidance. Additionally, there will be **two Q & A sessions** available for anyone to attend when registered. These sessions will be an open discussion regarding questions and agency responses. Registration is available on the home page of the PA EMS for Children website www.paemsc.org

Your agency should have received several communications and an invitation to participate in the survey if you have been identified as responding to 911 calls for EMS either as a primary or supplemental resource. If you have not received an invitation, check with your EMS agency leadership. Have the appropriate person take the lead in reading this document, downloading a paper copy of the survey, and identifying responses prior to going online to complete the official survey. This document and other resources can be found on the PA EMS for Children website. If you are unsure if the survey has already been completed or if your agency should participate, you can go to the survey site <https://emspedsready.org>, select Start the Assessment, select Pennsylvania as your state, then your home County, and see if your agency is listed. If it is grayed out someone has already completed it, if your agency is not listed, you have not been identified to take the survey. Please contact the [EMSC Program Manager](#) with any questions regarding availability of the survey.

The survey is requesting non-transporting agencies in Pennsylvania (QRS and EMS Squads) to participate although several questions may suggest participants are transport capable. Do not worry, your level of transport has been identified and will be filtered out with final results. Everyone will receive a Gap Report at the conclusion of the survey which will identify benchmarking information comparing your score with the national average score of all agencies, as well as the average score of agencies with similar pediatric volume.

The PPRP survey website is <https://emspedsready.org>

The online survey should take about 30-45 minutes to complete. Several questions require some pre-survey research while others require clarification specific to Pennsylvania and our methods of delivering EMS. These clarifications below will assist you in completing the survey quickly and accurately. Additionally, we have provided a list of data you will need prior to completing the survey. A paper version of the survey is also available on the website for you to download and review prior to completing the online version. You can use the paper version as a guide to identify all responses before going online to complete the actual survey. ***Paper submissions of the survey are not allowed.***

The survey period will run from May 1st through July 31st

We urge you to take the time to prepare before responding to the online version. When completing the survey, answer all questions honestly and within your agency's scope and actual practice. Responding to questions to gain a higher score does help us gauge needs and identify support to improve pediatric care across the state.

At anytime during the survey period feel free to contact the [EMSC Program Manger](#) listed below or the survey support team at <mailto:EMSpedsReadySupport@hsc.utah.edu>

Thank you again for your assistance and time spent in providing this valuable information for us to identify needs and develop resources for delivering optimal care for our pediatric patients.

Regards,

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Data to be collected prior to completing the survey.

You will need the following information to be added to the survey at the end (questions 191 to 195).

Total number of 911 responses (both adult and pediatric) in 2023

Total number of 911 responses for Pediatric Patients (17 years old and younger)*

Number of providers at the following certification levels

- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Advanced EMT (AEMT)
- Paramedic or higher ALS provider (Paramedic, PHRN, PHPE, PHP)
- Although Pennsylvania Protocols identify Pediatric Patients as 14 years old and younger, many policies and practices follow other regulatory rules and include all children until considered an Adult.

Survey clarifications.

In response to question 1, ***Name of your Agency?***

Your response should reflect the same name you list on your Pennsylvania EMS agency licensure application, the formal name or DBA as most commonly used.

In question 2-5, ***Address of your agency?***

This address should be the primary address of your organization. Many agencies have more than one station. Please list the ***primary location / main office***, again, most likely the same address as listed on your licensure application.

Question 5, ***Does your agency respond to 9-1-1 emergency medical calls?***

If you are listed to participate in the survey you have either previously identified that you are dispatched by 911 in your EMS licensure application, or we have identified that you are part of a 911 dispatch system. Select Yes. Only select No if you are not dispatched by 911 for EMS calls.

Questions 6-51, ask about ***Competency Assessments and Education***. These questions are very important and responses to each question are key to identifying your agency and our statewide readiness to care for children. Please ***consult with your training coordinator and medical director*** as necessary to

respond correctly and also to allow them to be aware of the questions behind the survey results when you are done.

Specifically in response to questions 7, 9, and 11 **“How often is this process required for your EMS providers?”**

You should base your answer of the frequency based on what your agency requires. If your agency does not have a requirement, choose "less frequently than once every 2 years".

Questions 13–22 ask which **specific skills** however some skills are above that of the licensure level of the agency. Respond to the questions based on the **scope of practice that your agency is licensed**, i.e. BLS service would be EMT scope and therefore only those questions apply, your response to the other questions should be “Not within scope of practice”. Do not respond to the out-of-scope questions even if you have a Paramedic who rides on the BLS agency vehicles.

In question 37, you are asked about the number of EMS provider hours your agency requires for your highest level of provider. This question is also slightly misleading as the **highest level of provider is based on the licensure level of your agency**, not an individual’s certification. PALS education would not be an appropriate requirement for BLS agencies, however PEPP would.

Questions 44–51 ask about behavioral health trainings/education that your agency may do. These questions are **not specific to behavioral emergencies**. These are questions about education of EMS clinicians' behavioral skills in any patient-facing interaction.

For the national consensus guidelines in question 52, what are the differences between this list and the state required list? **A crosswalk of state required equipment per licensure versus the national consensus list is available on the PA EMSC website** to use and identify if you carry the additional equipment. Remember, these **lists are scope specific**, BLS means QRS or BLS in PA with Scope Limited (SL) exceptions not applicable to QRS services as noted in the document. Other SL items may reference items specific for transport that do not apply to non-transporting agencies. If you have even one transporting unit, your agency is considered a transporting agency.

For inspection and verification of equipment in question 53, is there a specific group or entity that has to do the inspection for you to be able to answer “yes” to this question?

The periodic inspection can be done ***either internally*** by EMS agency personnel ***or by an entity external*** to the EMS agency (e.g., a state inspection process).

For question 54, Statewide protocols are the result of a two-year process that begins with a statewide survey and responses from individuals and organizations across the Commonwealth. Feedback is vetted through regional Medical Advisory Committees that include all of the agency medical directors and are finalized for submission to the state through the statewide medical advisory committee which is comprised of all the regional medical directors. Every agency has the ability to support the development of statewide protocols. Furthermore, statewide policy input is also supported throughout Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council where any agency within the state may become a member and become engaged with the advisory boards activities. ***Even though this question asks about hospitals or ED’s, the response to this question should be Yes statewide.***

For questions 55–63, If your agency works with hospitals, Regional EMS councils, local and county governments, or any other appropriate group that applies to the specific question you should respond Yes.

Questions 64-71 regarding public health can apply to a variety of organizational and oversight functions that address the specific topic. Think broadly and answer Yes only if you have a positive interaction with that specific issue.

Questions 72-79 ask about a disaster preparedness policy which ***can also be a disaster plan, procedure, or protocol*** based on the specific topic.

In questions 81 through 87, ask your ***agency medical director to assist*** with these responses. Please do not guess.

In question 93, asking if your pediatric emergency care coordinator (PECC) is included in the development of EMS protocols, this depends on if the individual is engaged with regional or statewide activities during protocol development.

For question 94 through 104, these questions refer to your PECC's involvement at the agency level with each of these activities.

For question 105 through 127, the questions ask if your agency has the specific information however you can answer Yes if the county, region, or state has the information that is asked and is required for you to follow as a licensed EMS agency.

Question 136 -138 refers specifically to the PA Statewide Protocols, and **Guideline 124 which includes the NASEMSO language** nearly word for word. **All licensed transporting vehicles are required to carry a safe transport device** as per the Pennsylvania required equipment list. If you are unsure, please refer to the published documents or ask the [EMSC Program Manager](#) for guidance. If you are a **transporting agency your response should be Yes**, otherwise select No.

For questions 139 – 140, **check with your 911 center.**

Questions 156–163 are trying to evaluate how many agencies can access a physician 24 hours a day for immediate medical consultation on pediatric cases, and if so, what types of training that physician has. If you have a mix of **physicians available (medical director, physicians at a regional pediatric center - such as via a medical command call, etc.), you can answer Yes**, and then respond to the subsequent question according to the training of all that are available to you. If you do not know the answer to the type of training, you should pick "unknown" for questions 157–161.

Question 164 is Yes, PA Statewide Protocols are updated every two years.

Question 183 & 184 , **if you are a licensed EMS agency at the BLS level or higher your response should be Yes.** If you are a **QRS, you need to respond based** on what information you collect and submit via an electronic medical record. Data extractions are available through internal reports or from the statewide data repository.

Question 195 asks about provider licensure level but **means certification level** in Pennsylvania terms.

Question 196 asks for agency certification level but ***means licensure level*** in Pennsylvania terms.

Lastly, question 201 – 204 will assist the State Partnership Manager with identifying the individual completing the survey should a question develop. ***Please answer all appropriately.***

When you have completed the survey, you should contact the [EMSC Program Manager](#) if:

- You forgot to save or need a copy of your Gap Report.
- You want to discuss any questions from the survey or content of the Gap Report.
- You need support with addressing some of the issues identified in the Gap Report

Thank you for assisting us with this valuable program to improve the readiness to care for our children.