Whereas, there are over 130 million emergency department (ED) visits in the United States annually with nearly 25% of these visits being for infants, children, and adolescents; and

Whereas, over 70% of U.S. emergency departments care for less than 10 children per day with over 80% of these visits occurring in a non-children’s hospital setting, highlighting the need for emergency care teams to maintain the knowledge, skills, and appropriate resources for immediate assessment and stabilization of children; and

Whereas, the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) is a multiphase, multidisciplinary, longitudinal quality initiative to improve readiness of US EDs to care for children and is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration/Emergency Medical Services for Children Program and cosponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Emergency Nurses Association, with original Institute of Medicine guidelines initially published in 2006 and twice revised through NPRP joint policy statements in 2009 and 2018; and

Whereas, these joint policy statements, endorsed by our AMA and 22 other national organizations and stakeholders, outline essential policies and procedures, patient safety, staff competencies, quality improvement, medications, equipment, and supplies to safely care for children, with comprehensive open access educational resources, policy templates, tools, and other resources are available as part of the National Pediatric Readiness Project (www.pediatricreadiness.org); and

Whereas, pediatric readiness of an emergency department is associated with a 60% and 76% reduction in mortality risk for injured and critically ill children, respectively, with a three-fold reduction in disparities for mortality; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association reaffirm H-130.939 acknowledging the importance of pediatric readiness in all emergency departments with awareness of the guidelines for Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department and stand ready to care for children of all ages (Reaffirm HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA work with appropriate state and national organizations to advocate for the development and implementation of regional and/or state pediatric-ready facility recognition programs. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest - between $1,000 - $5,000

Received: 4/23/2024
REFERENCES

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

H-130.939 Emergency Department Readiness to Care for Children
Our American Medical Association affirms the importance that all emergency departments stand ready to care for children of all ages, and advocates for hospital administrators, emergency department medical directors and emergency department nurse managers to be aware of the guidelines for Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department.