

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 704
(A-24)

Introduced by: American Academy of Pediatrics

Subject: Pediatric Readiness in Emergency Departments

Referred to: Reference Committee G

1 Whereas, there are over 130 million emergency department (ED) visits in the United States
2 annually with nearly 25% of these visits being for infants, children and adolescents¹; and
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4 Whereas, over 70% of U.S. emergency departments care for less than 10 children per day with
5 over 80% of these visits occurring in a non-children's hospital setting, highlighting the need for
6 emergency care teams to maintain the knowledge, skills, and appropriate resources for
7 immediate assessment and stabilization of children¹; and
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9 Whereas, the National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP) is a multiphase, multidisciplinary,
10 longitudinal quality initiative to improve readiness of US EDs to care for children and is
11 supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration/ Emergency Medical Services
12 for Children Program and cosponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American
13 College of Emergency Physicians, and the Emergency Nurses Association, with original
14 Institute of Medicine guidelines initially published in 2006 and twice revised through NPRP joint
15 policy statements in 2009 and 2018; and
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17 Whereas, these joint policy statements, endorsed by our AMA and 22 other national
18 organizations and stakeholders, outline essential policies and procedures, patient safety, staff
19 competencies, quality improvement, medications, equipment, and supplies to safely care for
20 children, with comprehensive open access educational resources, policy templates, tools, and
21 other resources are available as part of the National Pediatric Readiness Project
22 (www.pediatricreadiness.org); and
23

24 Whereas, pediatric readiness of an emergency department is associated with a 60% and 76%
25 reduction in mortality risk for injured and critically ill children, respectively, with a three-fold
26 reduction in disparities for mortality¹; therefore be it
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28 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association reaffirm H-130.939 acknowledging the
29 importance of pediatric readiness in all emergency departments with awareness of the
30 guidelines for Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department and stand ready to care for
31 children of all ages (Reaffirm HOD Policy); and be it further
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33 RESOLVED, that our AMA work with appropriate state and national organizations to advocate
34 for the development and implementation of regional and/or state pediatric-ready facility
35 recognition programs. (Directive to Take Action)

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

Received: 4/23/2024

REFERENCES

1. *Remick et al; National Assessment of Pediatric Readiness of US Emergency Departments During COVID-19 Pandemic; JAMA Open Network, 7/7/2023.*

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.

DRAFT