Pediatric EMS encounters are often rare so there is little chance for providers to practice the needed skills in the field. Studies have shown that specific clinical skills, of EMS providers, deteriorate over time when they are not practiced regularly in a training setting or actual patient encounter.\(^3\)

Evaluation of training using pediatric-specific equipment among EMS providers, was scored based on type and frequency of training at the EMS Agency. An EMS Agency scoring 6 points or higher, on a 12 point scale, was considered to have moderate to extensive training for pediatric-specific needs.

Coordination of Pediatric Emergency Care:

The Institute of Medicine report “Emergency Care for Children: Growing Pains”\(^1\) states that pediatric coordinators are necessary to advocate for improved competencies and the availability of resources for pediatric patients in both the pre-hospital and emergency department settings.

Gausche-Hill et al.\(^2\) in a national study of EDs found that the presence of a physician or nurse pediatric emergency care coordinator was associated with an ED being more prepared to care for children. An individual who coordinates pediatric emergency care for EMS agencies may also result in ensuring that the agency and its providers are more prepared to care for ill and injured children.

ALABAMA MEDIAN SCORE = 2
NATIONAL MEDIAN SCORE = 3

Of the 21% who have a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator, what are the top five duties performed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALABAMA</th>
<th>NATIONAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of EMS agencies with access to a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator</td>
<td>21% of EMS Agencies</td>
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</table>

Ensures that fellow providers follow pediatric clinical practice guidelines and/or protocols

Promotes pediatric continuing education opportunities

Ensures the availability of pediatric medications, equipment, and supplies

Ensures that the pediatric perspective is included in the development of EMS protocols

Oversees pediatric process improvement initiatives

**Frequency of Pediatric Training:**

Pediatric EMS encounters are often rare so there is little chance for providers to practice the needed skills in the field. Studies have shown that specific clinical skills, of EMS providers, deteriorate over time when they are not practiced regularly in a training setting or actual patient encounter.\(^3\)

Evaluation of training using pediatric-specific equipment among EMS providers, was scored based on type and frequency of training at the EMS Agency. An EMS Agency scoring 6 points or higher, on a 12 point scale, was considered to have moderate to extensive training for pediatric-specific needs.

**Distribution of Alabama Results:**

- No Training OR Very Little Training (0 pts)
- Limited Training (1 to 5 pts)
- Moderate Training (6 to 8 pts)
- Extensive Training (9 to 12 pts)

**ENGAGE** regional, agency, and medical directors to better understand barriers and look for solutions to increase the coordination of care and the frequency of training for pediatric patients.

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