



Revised January 2025

The Role of Emergency Physicians in the Care of Children

Reaffirmed January 2025

Emergency physicians treat the majority of acutely ill and injured children who seek emergency care in the United States.

Revised October 2019

Reaffirmed June 2013,
October 2007

By virtue of their training and experience, emergency physicians are qualified and are comfortable with providing initial stabilization and treatment of pediatric emergencies. Ongoing education, practice, and pediatric readiness are critical in maintaining skills and qualifications.

Revised June 2001

Approved January 1996

Rescinded June 1995

Originally approved
September 1989

In this capacity, emergency physicians:

- Advocate for emergency preparedness that is pediatric-specific and ensure that equipment, medical education, staffing, policies and procedures, and environmental designs address the unique needs of pediatric patients in each community.
- Ensure quality and family-centered patient care in accordance with the ACEP policy on patient- and family- centered care and the role of the emergency physician providing care to a child in the emergency department (<https://www.acep.org/globalassets/new-pdfs/policy-statements/patient--and-family-centered-care-and-the-role-of-the-ep-providing-care-to-a-child-in-the-ed.pdf>). This can be accomplished through:
 - Optimizing collaboration and communication between acute care physicians and the primary care physicians;
 - Optimizing access to facilities, specialists, equipment and staffing;
 - Promoting education for professionals, staff, and the public related to pediatric acute care issues and the prevention of injury and illness.
- Educate staff on the importance of family presence during procedures and resuscitations in the emergency department.
- Promote injury and illness prevention for children, parents, and their community.
- Promote pediatric readiness in the emergency department. For more information, refer to the policy statement on pediatric readiness in the emergency department (<https://acep.org/globalassets/new-pdfs/policy-statements/pediatric-readiness-in-the-emergency-department.pdf>)

- Collaborate with local, regional or national organizations to advocate for safety and care of the pediatric patient
- Promote the understanding of the concept of “System of Care”, including payors, the medical team, technology, community, and family.
- Advocate for health equity in the care of all children and raise awareness for social factors that contribute to health outcomes such as abuse, neglect, food insecurity, housing insecurity and mental health care.