

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I be Pediatric Ready?

Because every child in South Carolina deserves the best care in every emergency department, every time. Recognition ensures that your facility has appropriate education, equipment, and guidelines to give the best care to each of these children.

Who is eligible for Pediatric Ready Recognition?

DHEC licensed Emergency Departments are encouraged to apply for Pediatric Ready Recognition. Physician offices and urgent care centers are not currently eligible for the program.

Who will survey our facility?

Surveyor teams will include a representative from DHEC's Time Sensitive Emergencies Division, as well as a physician and a nurse approved by the EMS-C advisory council with an expertise in pediatric emergency medicine. Surveyors have had his or her background vetted and approved by the EMS-C committee. Specific requirements for site surveyors can be found [here](#).

Who should be present from my facility?

The pediatric physician champion and the pediatric nurse coordinator must be present for the duration. The administrative team and others identified on the recognition application should be available on-site throughout the survey, and present at the exit interview. The survey team will also talk to front-line staff as a part of validating guidelines, policies and protocols are in place.

Who makes the final decision that a facility is Pediatric Ready?

Surveyor findings will be reported to the EMS-C Advisory Committee, who will determine recognition disposition.

Who should I contact with questions?

Contact the DHEC EMS for Children program with questions. The Pediatric Ready program may be able to pair facilities with a regional mentor in order to answer questions and offer support. [Email](#) or 803-545-4333.

What happens if my facility is not recognized after a visit?

The Pediatric Ready program is meant to be inclusive. If your facility is not recognized, surveyors will compile a report outlining next steps, specific recommendations for improvement of identified deficiencies, and if desired, a mentor facility. This report will also include guidance on requesting further review.

What resources are available in preparation for a visit?

The Pediatric Ready program has a toolkit available [here](#). Additionally, EMS-C may be able to connect facilities with a mentor to assist with questions or concerns.

What is the waiting period to receive results after a site survey?

Most reports and decisions will be delivered within 120 days after survey. This time frame may vary depending on how the survey date coincides with the EMS-C quarterly meeting schedule.

What steps do I take to apply?

Fill out an application, found [here](#) and submit it to moorekv@dhec.sc.gov.

What are the Pediatric Ready criteria?

The criteria can be found [here](#).

When will my site visit date be confirmed?

EMS-C will make every effort to confirm a site visit date within 30 days after receipt of application. In the event of a significant delay, the EMS-C program will communicate with the designated facility contact.

Where can I find a list of recognized Pediatric Ready facilities?

The list of Pediatric Ready facilities can be found [here](#).

How is pediatric admission capacity defined on the recognition application?

This application question is intended to accurately define how many inpatient beds your facility has available to manage pediatric patient. This count may include designated pediatric beds, flex beds (adult/pediatric beds), etc.

How do I prepare for a site visit?

Review the [Pediatric Readiness Checklist](#), and Toolkit on the EMS-C website.

How can I become a site surveyor?

Fill out an application, found [here](#) and submit it to moorekv@dhec.sc.gov.

How much does a site visit cost?

There is no application or recognition fee. Food and drink for site surveyors must be provided by the facility. Travel costs for surveyors will be covered by the EMS-C program.

How long should I prepare for a site visit?

Time required to prepare for a survey will depend on your facility's current readiness. Note that six months of performance improvement (PI) data is desired prior to scheduling your visit.

How long does my recognition last?

Pediatric Ready Facility recognition lasts 3 years. Any significant changes or concerns regarding the facility's pediatric readiness during the recognition period may require additional review.

