

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Requestor:

Requestor Phone:

Requestor Email:

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): 5 January 2017

Response Date: 10 January 2017

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

██████████ is working on her organization's reunification plans and is inquiring if there were known certifications or trainings for personnel that would staff a Pediatric Safe Area.

Response:

The ASPR TRACIE team researched for training recommendations, certifications, or other requirements for personnel staffing a Pediatric Safe Area. We were unable to locate any specific certifications; however, did find recommendations from other hospitals or health departments regarding professional qualifications and trainings. Example recommendations for the professional qualifications of personnel staffing a Pediatric Safe Area include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Physicians (e.g., Emergency Department physicians, Anesthesiologists, Otolaryngologists Anesthesia, ENT, pediatric surgery, trauma surgery, general surgery, orthopedics, urology, neurosurgery, thoracic surgery, family medicine, pediatrics)
- Nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners from OR, PACU, ICUs, inpatient units and outpatient clinics
- Social Workers
- Child Life Specialists
- Other personnel with pediatric expertise:
 - Behavioral health professional
 - Pharmacy
 - Respiratory therapy

The [Minnesota Pediatric Surge Primer and Template Plan](#) recommends that support staff and escorts for patients could be drawn from a number of sources including licensed day care centers, schools, and other facilities.

Trainings are recommended in the [Minnesota Pediatric Surge Primer and Template Plan](#) and [New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Pediatric Disaster Toolkit](#) as follows:

- Formal classes (e.g., Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), Advanced Pediatric Life Support (APLS), Neonatal Advanced Life Support (NALS), and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) that are:
 - Expected as part of job description/ job class – this would likely apply to physicians and nurses working in certain areas (ATLS for physicians staffing the

Emergency Department for example) – these should be documented in the planning process.

- Encouraged as supplemental education/ enrichment of staff that might participate in a mass casualty response – personnel taking these classes should be documented.
- Facility education:
 - Pediatric Mass Casualty Annex components.
 - Equipment – location and use.
 - Simulation sessions.
 - Exercises.
 - Decontamination team education about pediatric-specific issues.

Below are a few resources that have job aids/ job action sheets and other planning materials for Pediatric Safe Areas.

King County Healthcare Coalition. (2010). [Hospital Guidelines for Management of Pediatric Patients in Disasters.](#)

This toolkit includes a Pediatric Safe Area Checklist and Coordinator Job Action Sheet in the Annex. Additional considerations are provided starting on page 15.

Minnesota Department of Health. (2013). [Minnesota Pediatric Surge Primer and Template Plan](#)

This guidance document and template plan is geared to smaller community hospitals that do not usually provide pediatric trauma or inpatient services. Pediatric Safe Area staffing and training considerations are on pages 9-10 and tracking considerations are on page 25. Appendix 1 includes a checklist and the unit leader job action sheet is in Appendix 11.

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. (2006). [Pediatric Disaster Toolkit.](#)

This toolkit includes numerous guidelines and recommendations for the care of children during and after a disaster. Section 1 includes recommendations for setting up a Pediatric Safe Area including job action sheets for coordinators.

Public Health Seattle & King County, Northwest Healthcare Response Network. (2013). [Family Reception Services Guidelines for Hospitals.](#)

Recommendations for using non-medical personnel to serve as the Pediatric Safe Area Coordinator is located on page 8. Attachments to this plan include a Pediatric Safe Area Checklist, Registry Sheet, and Coordinator Job Action Sheet.

Rady Children’s Hospital, San Diego. (n.d.). [Pediatric Surge Planning.](#) (Accessed 1/10/2017.)

Security considerations and a checklist for Pediatric Safe Areas are noted starting on page 35.

State of California Health and Human Services Agency. (2010). [EMSC Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Guidelines: Hospitals.](#)

Pediatric Safe Area set up considerations and checklist are noted on page 9.