# Importance of the Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator

In the United States, most children who seek emergency care (83%) present to general EDs versus specialized pediatric EDs.‍ The Institute of Medicine (IOM) identified that these children are often seen in EDs that are not well prepared to care for them, both in terms of availability of equipment and supplies, as well as training and readiness of the ED staff.1

An analysis of the 2013 National Pediatric Readiness Project Assessment found that EDs with a designated PECC were more ‘ready’ than those EDs who did not have PECCs identified. Based on the 2013 assessment, 47.5% of all EDs have a physician PECC, and 59.3% have a nurse PECC. The presence of both nurse and physician PECCs is strongly correlated with improved pediatric readiness, independent of other factors.2

The PECCs (both a nurse and a physician) need not be individuals dedicated solely to this role, although they COULD be, if your ED has a high pediatric volume. Many EDs have identified a nurse and/or physician with a special interest in care of children to assume this role as a part of their existing duties.

In this section, you’ll find documents outlining Roles and Responsibilities for both physician and nurse PECCs. These responsibilities were taken from the 2018 Joint Policy Statement – Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department.3 The role responsibility documents can be crafted into simple role responsibility guidelines or formal job descriptions, depending on the needs of your ED.

1. Institute of Medicine, Committee of the Future of Emergency Care in the US Health System. Emergency Care for Children: Growing Pains. Washington, DC: National Academies Press; 2006
2. Gausche Hill M, Ely M, Schmuhl P, Telford R, Remick K, Edgerton E, Olson L. *National Assessment of Pediatric Readiness of Emergency Departments*. JAMA Pediatrics. 2015 Jun; 169(6): 527-34.

Remick K, Gausche-Hill M, Joseph MM, Brown K, Snow SK, Wright JL; American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Pediatric Emergency medicine and Section on Surgery; American College of Emergency Physicians Pediatric Emergency Medicine Committee; Emergency Nurses Association Pediatric Committee. Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department. Pediatrics. 2018;142(5):e20182459

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