



Montana EMSC Prehospital Voluntary Recognition Program Overview



The Montana Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Prehospital Voluntary Recognition Program is an exciting opportunity for ground EMS Agencies to achieve recognition in excellent pediatric care. The multi-phase voluntary recognition program establishes standards to improve the EMS Agency's capabilities to deliver care to pediatric patients. The recognition program is an excellent opportunity to receive recognition within Montana, your community, and local media outlets for going "above and beyond."

Please note this is a voluntary recognition program. Your participation will not impact your MT DPHHS EMS, Montana Board of Medical Examiners (BOME), and/or the Montana Department of Labor and Industry licensure.

If your Agency is interested in participating in this Program, please review this overview manual and complete and return the Application and compliance forms. Agencies that complete the application process will receive a Certificate and decals to affix to their ambulance, recognizing their accomplishment and commitment to Montana's children.

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Introduction

The mission of EMSC is to implement a performance-driven healthcare system for pediatrics in Montana, ensuring that children, no matter where they live, have access to the right care at the right time with the right resources.

Agencies may apply for recognition through the voluntary Montana EMSC Prehospital EMS Recognition Program. EMS agencies currently licensed within Montana are eligible to participate. This overview manual describes the levels, the steps necessary to apply for and maintain recognition status, and an overview of the application process.

This document has been prepared by the MT EMSC Program, MT DPHHS, Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems, and the MT EMSC Advisory Committee with financial support from the US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the staff at (406) 444-3895 or the MT EMSC Program Manager at (406) 444-0901.

This document is subject to review and revision; therefore, the applicant is encouraged to review a current copy and confer with the Montana Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems Staff to secure additional assistance. The most recent version of this overview document is posted on the EIIC Partnership website – <https://emscimprovement.center/programs/partnerships/performance-measures/ems/recognition/>.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Is participation in this Program mandatory?**
- A. No, participation is entirely voluntary.
- Q. Does the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, EMS & Trauma Systems, and EMSC Program plan to mandate future participation?**
- A. No; this Program is entirely voluntary.
- Q. What are the benefits of participating?**
- A. Not only will participation improve the capability of their Agency to treat pediatric medical and trauma emergencies, but it will also allow them to present



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achievements to local media outlets, elected officials, and the members of your community. If funding allows, agency staff will also be eligible for free educational opportunities and annual pediatric supplies.

Q. Is there a fee to participate in this recognition program?

A. No. There is no cost to an organization to participate in the Program beyond meeting the Program's requirements.

Q. Do I request a special inspection through the respective EMS Inspection System?

A. No. There is no requirement for a special inspection. EMS Agencies will be recognized based on good faith for initial recognition and inspected at their regularly scheduled inspection with the MT EMS Licensing Specialist.

Q. Is there a cost for the Child Safety Plus Endorsement?

A. No, the MT DPHHS Child and Family Services Division sponsors the Child Protective Background check costs. Their mission is to keep children safe.



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Program Levels Overview

Level I – Basic – PECC(s), Equipment & Supplies and Assessment Participation (Bronze)

1. The Basic Level of recognition relates to staffing a **Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator (PECC)**, pediatric-specific equipment/supplies on ambulances, and participating in national EMS assessments. The PECC coordinates pediatric emergency care at EMS Agencies and helps to ensure providers are prepared to care for ill and injured children. A PECC's duties may include:
 - Ensuring that the pediatric perspective is included in the development of protocols;
 - Promoting pediatric continuing education;
 - Overseeing pediatric process improvement projects;
 - Ensuring availability of pediatric medications, equipment, and supplies;
 - promoting agency participation in pediatric injury prevention activities;
 - Liaising with the ED Hospital PECC and
 - Promoting family-centered, culturally appropriate care at the Agency.
 - Notification of PECC personnel changes and contact information must be reported to the EMSC Program Manager.
2. **Agencies must also demonstrate that their vehicles have the required pediatric equipment/supplies for Montana licensure**, listed in the EMS Rules Appendix, <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/EMSTS/ems/resources>, including carrying pediatric restraint devices on all transport units.
 - a. Verification of these equipment/supplies will occur during the regularly scheduled inspection.
 - a. Additional resources for recommended pediatric equipment and supplies are referenced in the 2020 Joint Policy Statement: Equipment for Ground Ambulances.
3. EMS Agencies seeking recognition under the Voluntary Recognition Program **must participate in the national EMSC survey or assessment** administered by the EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (EDC).



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Level II –Intermediate- Silver- Pediatric Education for Providers

To achieve recognition at the Silver Level II through the MT EMSC Pediatric Prehospital EMS Voluntary Recognition Program, an EMS Agency shall meet the Level I /Bronze Level. Additionally, the EMS Agency shall require its providers to receive at least four (4) hours of continuing education on the pediatric-specific subject matter annually.

The EMSC program identifies pediatric continuing education as a critical component of an EMS provider's skill. Pediatric Advance Life Support (PALS) and Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) courses are vital for maintaining skills and abilities. These courses are typically required every two years. However, more frequent practice of skills using different is necessary for EMS providers to ensure their readiness to care for pediatric patients when faced with these infrequent encounters.

EMS Agencies must maintain proof of completion of the required course hours for each EMS provider at the EMS Agency. Providers who function at multiple EMS Agencies are allowed to use the same courses to satisfy the requirements of this Level at all EMS Agencies, provided documentation is maintained at each EMS agency.

For more information on education and competencies for providers and processes for evaluating pediatric-specific competencies, please see the "[National Prehospital Pediatric Readiness EMS Agency Checklist](#)." In addition, the MT EMSC Program publishes a monthly newsletter that offers free or low-cost pediatric-specific educational opportunities. The newsletter is located at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/EMSTS/EMS/EMSC>.



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Level III – Master – (Gold) – Community Outreach Programs

Agencies must meet the requirements of Levels I and II (Bronze and Silver) before reaching Level III or Gold. Beyond providing high-quality clinical care to children, EMS Agencies demonstrating excellence in pediatric care also share a responsibility to provide education, injury prevention initiatives, and outreach within their community. This outreach can be accomplished in multiple ways and may target various audiences (children, parents, schoolteachers, childcare providers, etc.).

Therefore, Agencies shall regularly participate in **at least two (2) offerings annually**. Some examples include:

- Hosting a community safety day at the ambulance station;
- Hosting a community CPR class, including child/infant curriculum components;
- Providing a presentation to local elementary school students on EMS;
- Conducting injury prevention talks at the local swimming pool or local public library;
- Holding a bike safety rodeo;
- Community Health Fairs;
- Hosting events with your local hospital;
- Hosting events with community-based organizations or local county public health departments;
- Hosting Pediatric Disaster Training or drills;
- Partnering with local law enforcement agencies for a children's safety day;
- Partner with your local chapter of Safe Kids MT or local child passenger safety technicians to host a public car-seat checkup event or assist at the local permanent fitting station.
- Partnering with local schools to educate and improve awareness of EMS topics including, but not limited to, compression-only CPR, first aid, and 911 usage.



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Level IV-Expert- (Platinum) – Child Passenger Safety Technicians

Agencies must meet the requirements of Levels I, II, and III (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) to achieve **Platinum**. A significant cause of injury in children is motor vehicle collisions. The MT EMSC Program wishes to acknowledge EMS Agencies working to ensure children are safe in their passenger safety seats. To meet the requirements of this Level, EMS Agencies shall do the following:

- At a minimum, have one (1) certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician at the EMS Agency.
- Host at least one (1) car seat inspection event annually.
 - Agencies are encouraged to contact [Safe Kids MT](#) to provide notice of this event.
- Participate with other certified child passenger safety technicians in hosting at least one (1) public car seat checkup annual event.

Contact the Montana Department of Transportation at (406) 444-0809 for information on Montana's CPS Program.



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Safety Plus Endorsement –Child Protective Service (CPS) Background Check Requirement

To obtain Recognition with the Safety Plus Endorsement, an Agency shall require that each provider submit to a CPS Background Check through the MT DPHHS Child and Family Services Division (CFSD) and maintain a copy of the request on file at the EMS Agency.

To submit a Child Protective Service Background Check request, submit a completed, signed, and notarized Montana Release of Information form to CFSD by mail or fax (secured line) using the DPHHS-CFSD **400 Release of Information Protective Services Form.**, located on the Montana DPHHS Child & Family Services Division website here:
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/backgroundchecks>.

- Notice: The Release must be signed and dated before a Notary. The notarization ensures the applicant's identification has been verified and the applicant has signed the Release.



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Application Process

The Montana EMSC Pediatric Prehospital EMS Voluntary Recognition Program Application can be downloaded from the EMSC EIIC Website:

<https://emscimprovement.center/programs/partnerships/performance-measures/ems/recognition/>

OR the Application can be requested by contacting:

Montana EMSC
PO Box 202951
1400 Broadway, Room C303
Helena, MT 59620
Fax: (406) 444-1814
(406) 444-0901

Completed Applications can be mailed/faxed or emailed to the return address above.

1. The Montana EMSC's Program Manager reviews the Application for completeness and accuracy.
2. Verification of the Agency's licensure and "good standing" status will be through the MT DPHHS EMS Licensing Section.
3. The Program Manager will contact the applying Agency via email or phone if further information is needed.

Suspension or Revocation

Recognition may be suspended or revoked if the EMS Agency:

- Willfully or repeatedly violated any provision of these guidelines.
- Willfully or repeatedly acted in a manner inconsistent with preserving the health and safety of patients, the public, or providers;
- Provided falsified information to gain recognition.
- Failed to maintain the standards of this Voluntary Recognition Program as identified in the guidance; or



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- Failed to provide services to any persons due to inability to pay, sexual preference, race, age, sex, ethnic origin, or any other reason the MT DPHHS deemed discriminatory.
- If an organization no longer maintains recognition status, decals must be removed from all EMS vehicles.

Renewal of Recognition

- Once recognized, the renewal will be automatic if the standards identified in this Program are maintained.
- During the regularly scheduled inspection of the EMS Agency by the MT EMS Licensing Specialist, the Agency is also subject to an inspection of the standards identified in this guidance.

Recognition Level Advancement or Downgrade

- To voluntarily upgrade or downgrade a recognition level or levels, the EMS Agency shall contact the MT EMSC Program Manager in writing with documentation of support for level upgrade or rationale for level downgrade.
- The Level of documentation (s) advancement is the same documentation that an EMS Agency would use to be initially recognized.
- To voluntarily downgrade, please contact the MT EMSC Program Manager directly.
 - The Program Manager will ensure that supporting documentation is appropriately completed and send updated decals to the EMS Agency.

Award of Recognition

- After submitting the completed verification documentation, the EMSC Program Manager will send the applicant a Voluntary Recognition Certificate and Ambulance Decal(s).
 - While vehicle recognition decal placement is strongly encouraged, it is not required.
- By applying for recognition, successful applicants authorize their organization name and general information to be posted in program documents and on the MT EMSC website.
- EMS Agencies are also encouraged to promote their recognition under this Program through a public relations event, press release, etc.



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- The MT EMSC Program has a generic press release for EMS Agencies and other support services.

Inspection by MT EMS Licensing Specialist

- The MT EMS Licensing Specialist will inspect for the additional pediatric EMS components in conjunction with the ambulance service's standard licensure inspection.
- A voluntary compliance reporting mechanism (i.e., compliance reporting form) allows agencies to receive good faith recognition in advance.
- In the event of a DPHHS EMS Spot Inspection, pediatric recognized agencies are subject to inspection for the pediatric items.