



PEDIATRIC RESOURCES FOR ALL HOSPITALS

TO: All Acute Care Facilities

SUBJECT: Resources and Considerations for Pediatric Hospital Surge

DATE: December 12, 2022

SUMMARY

There are national and local reports of pediatric surges in hospitals due to a severe respiratory season, driven by RSV, influenza and COVID-19. This letter highlights updated resources for hospitals, including the announcement of new resources for hospitals seeking to transfer and place patients, as well as CMS waivers, licensing FAQs, and opportunities to communicate and collaborate with the Arizona Department of Health Services during this busy pediatric season. Additionally, this letter provides checklist resources and recommendations for healthcare facilities to consider, including short-term measures to expand capacity for evaluation and treatment of pediatric patients.

TRANSFER RESOURCES FOR HOSPITALS

Transfer Center Contact Information for Arizona Pediatric-Capable Facilities

A list of Arizona pediatric-capable facilities with transfer center contact information has been provided to assist smaller facilities with locating services. This resource is available on page 5 and recommended as a reference for transfer staff.

REACH (Resource Equity and Access Coordination Hub)

The Arizona Poison and Drug Information System has announced a 24/7 coordination center for **Arizona Critical Access Hospitals, Indian Health Service and Tribally operated P.L. 93-638 Hospitals to voluntarily use to assist in the interfacility transfer of all pediatric and adult medical patients**. There is no mandate to utilize this service to transfer patients, and receiving facilities will be called based on the sending facility's request. The phone number and more information will be circulated through the representative agencies. This service will be available beginning **Tuesday, December 13, 2022**.

Pediatric Transfer Line [*temporary]

The Arizona Department of Health Services has partnered with REACH to offer a temporary call center for **all Arizona hospital facilities seeking assistance with placing pediatric patients only**. There is no mandate to utilize this service to transfer patients, and receiving facilities will be called based on the sending facility's request. This is a service that will likely end at the termination of the respiratory season. The phone number and more information will be



circulated through the representative agencies. This service will be available beginning **Tuesday, December 13, 2022.**

CMS WAIVERS AND LICENSING RESOURCES

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued [blanket waivers](#) that allow hospitals to screen or triage patients off site; provide care in temporary expansion sites to boost surge capacity; and more easily transfer patients between facilities. Additionally, Medicaid agencies continue to have the authority to authorize health care services in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to be provided via telehealth. CMS recognizes that providers have asked for these flexibilities to help prevent the spread of infection in crowded areas and more efficiently provide safe care in the most appropriate settings available.

CMS keeps an updated list of flexibilities available online:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf>

ADHS Licensing has provided an updated list of Frequently Asked Questions ([Licensing FAQs](#)). This document addresses questions pertaining to pediatrics patients, including questions about space-waivers, using adult-beds for pediatric patients, EMTALA, and other guidance during a surge. Many surge strategies can be accomplished by working within a facility's surge capacity plan and the licensing body. If you have particular questions about Licensing and Waivers, or to report an EMTALA concern regarding a transfer, please contact the appropriate [ADHS Licensing Bureau](#).

ADHS has provided an updated list of Licensing FAQs online:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/licensing/medical-facilities/faqs-for-hospitals-during-public-health-emergency-incidents.pdf>

PEDIATRIC TRIAGE AND CARE COORDINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that acute care facilities work with surrounding hospitals in a coordinated regional approach to equitably address pediatric triage and care coordination. Additionally, the following national resources are available for facilities to consider related to pediatric triage and care coordination:

- HHS Pediatric Surge Resources: <https://asprtracie.hhs.gov/pediatric-surge>
- WRAP-EM Tools to Address Pediatric Surge: <https://wrap-em.org>
- CMS Waivers: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf>
- FDA Drug Shortage Guidance: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/drug-shortages>



- CDC COVID-19 National Forecast of Hospitalizations (Trend Analysis)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/forecasting/hospitalizations-forecast.html>

Checklist Resources and Recommendations for All Acute Care Facilities

- Consider activating the Hospital Incident Command Center to manage pediatric surge.
- Review facility surge plans to address pediatric surge, and consider leveraging existing surge plans to include expanding staffing and bed capacity using program flexibilities, team nursing models, and triage tents as indicated.
- Revitalize transfer agreements and telehealth consultative services with hospital networks, with a focus on preserving dedicated pediatric facilities for those requiring the most serious and/or most specialized care.
- Assess inventories of medicines and supplies, maintain awareness of supply chain for durable medical equipment (e.g. pediatric respiratory support supplies, ventilators, PPE) and medicines (e.g. antibiotics, antipyretics, inhaled beta-2 agonists, oseltamivir, anti-inflammatories) related to the current surge needs.
- Consider managing adult-size children who have conditions common to both children and adults (e.g. appendicitis, trauma, sepsis) on adult medical/surgical units within federal and state regulations.
- Review additional resources to assist with hospital pediatric readiness, such as:
<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/hospital-pediatric-surge-tip-sheet.pdf>

RESOURCE REQUEST PROCESS FOR LOCAL FACILITIES

If your facility has a resource request, initially work within your local networks and if you are a member (or to register for membership) contact the Arizona Coalition for Healthcare Emergency Response ([AZCHER](#)). All resource requests are to go through your local Emergency Management. Of note, the Arizona Department of Health Services has limited resources to respond to pediatric resource requests and will coordinate with federal partners to collect essential elements of information for requests that must be elevated to the federal level when resources are limited.

COLLABORATION WITH ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Statewide Healthcare Collaborative Forum

The Arizona Department of Health Services hosts a statewide monthly forum to discuss trends and opportunities for collaboration across the spectrum of healthcare in Arizona. Current attendees include AZHHA, the Alliance, IHS, EMS Regions, AZCHER, AHCA and AHCCCS. Please reach out to your representation if there are any items that your organization would like discussed. The goal of this collaborative forum is to provide statewide awareness and offer



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administrative support for any coordinated effort that hospital or healthcare sector champions wish to explore related to surge management.

For questions, please contact ADHS Licensing at Medical.Licensing@azdhs.gov or the Health Emergency Operations Center at HEOCLogistics@azdhs.gov.

Thank you for your ongoing work to support the Arizona community, particularly the youngest and most vulnerable of our population.

Appreciatively,
Arizona Department of Health Services



Arizona Pediatric-Capable Facilities with Transfer Center Contact Information

#	Facility Name	Transfer Center	City	Pediatric Capable
1	BANNER - UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER TUCSON CAMPUS	(888) 698-2727	TUCSON	YES
2	BANNER DESERT MEDICAL CENTER	(888) 698-2727	MESA	YES
3	BANNER PAYSON MEDICAL CENTER	(888) 698-2727	PAYSON	LIMITED
4	BANNER THUNDERBIRD MEDICAL CENTER	(888) 698-2727	GLENDALE	YES
5	COBRE VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	928-425-3261	GLOBE	LIMITED
6	FLAGSTAFF MEDICAL CENTER	928-773-2458	FLAGSTAFF	YES
7	HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL	520-285-3000	NOGALES	YES
8	HONORHEALTH SCOTTSDALE SHEA MEDICAL CENTER	480-323-3000	SCOTTSDALE	YES
9	KINGMAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	928-757-2101	KINGMAN	YES
10	LITTLE COLORADO MEDICAL CENTER	928-289-4691	WINSLOW	YES
11	PHOENIX CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL	602-933-3627	PHOENIX	YES
12	TUCSON MEDICAL CENTER	520-327-5461	TUCSON	YES
13	VALLEYWISE HEALTH MEDICAL CENTER	602-344-5011	PHOENIX	YES
14	WHITE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	928-333-4368	SPRINGVILLE	LIMITED
15	YAVAPAI REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER-EAST CAMPUS	928-445-2700	PRESCOTT VALLEY	YES
16	YUMA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	928-344-2000	YUMA	YES
Additional Facilities - Indian Health Services (IHS) & Tribal Facilities				
17	Chinle Hospital	928-674-7001	CHINLE	YES
18	Sells Indian Hospital	520-383-7251	SELLS	YES
19	Tsehootsooi Medical Center	928-729-8000	FORT DEFIANCE	LIMITED
20	Tuba City Regional Healthcare	866-976-5941	TUBA CITY	LIMITED
21	White River Indian Hospital	928-338-3911	WHITERIVER	LIMITED