Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services for Children Pediatric Comfort Kit

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Project Manager
EMSC Program Introduction

• Authorized by U.S. Congress in 1984
• Administered by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB)
• Aim: reduce childhood death and disability caused by severe illness or injury
10 WAYS I AM DIFFERENT THAN AN ADULT

1. Small body
   - greater heat loss
2. Tiny veins
   - difficult IV access
3. Bigger tongue
   - obstruction
4. Thinner skin
   - absorb everything like a sponge
5. Smaller airway
   - airway management challenges
6. Immature bones
   - watch for suspicious injuries
7. Dehydrate quickly
   - electrolyte imbalances
8. Large head
   - at risk for falls
9. Faster respiratory/heart rate
   - know the ranges
10. Immature liver
    - decreased glucose stores hypoglycemia

Children’s Health Alliance of Wisconsin
Pediatric Emergency Department Visits

• 304,000 pediatric visits annually
• Pediatrics account for 17% of total visits
• 80% of pediatric visits in community EDs
• Leading diagnoses
  – Upper respiratory infection
  – Fever, unspecified
  – Pharyngitis, unspecified
  – Croup
Pediatric Ambulance Calls

- 52,000 pediatric calls annually
- Pediatrics account for 8% of total calls
- Leading primary impressions
  - Neurological symptoms/illness
  - Superficial injury (not head)
  - Pain (non-cardiac/non-chest)
  - Behavioral/mental health
Pediatric Ambulance Calls

• Range of service levels
  – Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
  – Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
  – Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)
  – Intermediate
  – Paramedic
  – Critical Care Paramedic
Pediatric Emergencies

- Low frequency
- High acuity
- Initial response team may be “non-transport” or have limited access to medications and procedures
- Depart to destination time varies
  - 0-5 minutes to >30 minutes
Pediatric Comfort Kits
Comfort Kit Contents

- Assortment of balls
- Book
- Bubbles
- Glitter stick
- Light up turning circle wand
- Pediatric character masks
- Shot blocker
- Stickers
- Pacifiers
Comfort Kit Distribution

- Over 400 comfort kits distributed from 2015-present
- Offered to EMS and emergency departments
  - Conferences
  - In-person training
  - By request online
Sustainability

- Initial kit provided by WI EMSC
  - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funding
- 35.00 cost per kit
- Items replaced by hospitals and EMS agencies
Comfort Kit Evaluation

In one month, how often does your department encounter calls involving pediatric patients?

- 0 times: 1 agency
- 1-5 times: 12 agencies
- 6-9 times: 0 agencies
- 10+ times: 0 agencies
Comfort Kit Evaluation

In one month, how often does your department utilize the kit?

- 0 times: 2 agencies
- 1-5 times: 11 agencies
- 6-9 times: 0 agencies
- 10+ times: 0 agencies
Comfort Kit Evaluation

What is the most common item used from the kit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Number of agencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacifier</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masks</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot blocker</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stress reliever balls</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bubbles</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glitter stick</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stickers</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light up balls</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light up wand</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comfort Kit Evaluation

How would you rate your department overall satisfaction with the kit?

- Highly Satisfied: 11
- Satisfied: 2
- Neutral: 0
- Dissatisfied: 0
- Highly dissatisfied: 0
Final Thoughts

• Inexpensive resource to calm and distract pediatric patients
• Valued by emergency providers
• Promotes WI EMSC program
Questions and thank you

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