

**Emergency Care Plan
for the Special
Needs Child**

Because of advancing technology, more special needs children are living at home. Families and caregivers need to prepare a plan for emergency care. This plan should be developed with school officials (nurse), teachers, family members and your doctors. Developing and Emergency Care Plan is very important and could help save your child's life during a medical emergency.

**Resources for Developing an
Emergency Care Plan :**

**Email/Website:
information@emscnrc.com
http:// www.ems-c.org**

**EMSC National Resource Center
111 Michigan Avenue, NW
Washington, DC. 20010
202-884-4927
301-650-8045 (Fax)
202-884-6845 (Fax)**

County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
92101-2417

California Children Services

**Emergency Medical
Information For
Children with Special
Health Care Needs**



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Division of Emergency Medical
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California Children Services

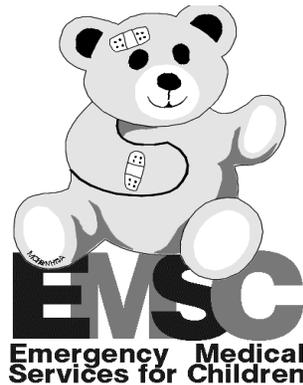
Preparing for Emergencies

In a medical emergency complete information about your child's condition may be live saving.

Children with special health care needs are at high risk of requiring emergency medical services. They frequently have unique, complex medical histories and can require very specialized medical treatments. During an emergency, if paramedics and physicians do not have important information about your child's condition, they may not be able to provide the best care for your child.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and American College of Emergency Physicians have developed the "Emergency (Medical) Information Form (EIF)" to record vital health information on children with special health care needs. When parents can provide accurate information in English about their child's medical condition, potential emergency situations and current treatments, paramedics and physicians can minimize delays in treatment and avoid unnecessary steps.

The information on the Emergency Information Form is extremely important for medical personnel to care for your child. Each child with special health care needs may benefit from having a completed EIF and developing an Emergency Plan (see back) .



Using the Form

The Emergency Information Form (EIF) is available from several sources; your physician, specialist, local emergency departments, at <http://www.acep.org> or <http://www.aap.org>.

Fill out the form to the best of your ability and take the form to your child's primary care physician and specialist (s) and ask them to complete the form.

Keep the form updated. When you return to your physician take the form with you and have the form updated:

- Changes in child's condition
- Major procedures
- Changes in child's treatment plan
- Changes in physicians
- **Or at least—**Every 2 years

Keep the form Everywhere

One copy of Emergency Information Form (EIF) needs to be kept in the following places:

- With each of the child's physicians, including specialists including rehabilitative specialist and respiratory and physical therapists.
- At your local emergency department and in the emergency department of the pediatric specialty hospital.
- At home, in plain site or easily found, (e.g. on refrigerator or beside bed).
- In each of the family vehicles
- With each parent (at work, in wallet, on palm pilot).
- At school or with any caregiver
- In the child's backpack.
- Where ever the child may be.