IMERT PEDIATRIC CARE MEDICAL SPECIALIST (PCMS) TEAM

**Background:** Many areas within Illinois lack pediatric experts on a daily basis. This gap will be further exacerbated during a large scale disaster. In 2014, the Pediatric and Neonatal Surge Annex (appendix to the state health and medical disaster plan) was developed in an effort to ensure all children in Illinois receive the care they need during a disaster. A component of this plan is the use of pediatric experts within Illinois to provide remote medical consultation and statewide coordination of care. A specialty team of pediatric physicians and advanced practice nurses has been developed within the state medical disaster team (IMERT). This team is not as a “boots on the ground” response team but instead, has been designed to provide pediatric expertise *remotely*. Team members do not have to travel or leave their community.

**Type of Specialists Needed:** Pediatric physicians (e.g. Emergency Medicine, Intensivists, Surgeons, Neonatologists) and Advanced Practice Nurses (Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialists) who specialize in pediatrics/neonates. NOTE: Other ancillary professionals may be added to the team over time.

**Role Description:** When the PCMS team is activated, pediatric expert team members would respond remotely (from their home/community) to:

1) Provide medical/nursing consultation to non-pediatric hospitals throughout the state who are unable to transfer to a tertiary care center and need to care for children for a longer time period than normal due to the disaster.

2) Assist with statewide triage to identify which children need to be transferred to pediatric tertiary care or specialty centers

**Team Requirements:** All PCMS team members must meet the following requirements:

1) Physician/APN (NP or CNS) with an unencumbered Illinois license

2) Complete all IMERT prerequisites and training requirements (see page 2 for details)

3) 2 years of experience in their pediatric specialty area

**Team Member Commitment:** No call time is required for team members. Team members need to remain current with IMERT member requirements. When team is activated, members will be contacted to determine their availability for shifts ranging from 4 hours to 12 hours.

Applications are being accepted for pediatric physician and advanced practice nurse specialists who are interested in putting their expertise to work during a disaster. For more information, questions about the role, or to begin the application process, please contact Laura Prestidge (lprestidge@luc.edu / 708-327-2558).

August 2016
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IMERT PCMS Team Member Requirements:

Initial:

1) Complete the online NIMS/ICS courses (IS 100, 200 & 700)

2) Complete an online Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness course

3) Attend IMERT PCMS orientation course **

Ongoing:

1) Participate in one in-person PCMS training every year:**

** Times and location of PCMS orientation course and yearly training will vary and will be scheduled to accommodate PCMS team members schedules and locations throughout the state