
Los Angeles County Pediatric Acute Surge Plan



**EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES AGENCY**
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Effective: May 2013
Last Edited: August 2024

APPROVED:

Richard Jado

Director, EMS Agency

[Signature]

Medical Director, EMS Agency

The information in this manual is For Official Use Only (FOUO). Reproduction of this document, in whole or part, without prior permission of Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Service is prohibited.

For more information, please consult the following points of contact (POC):

Disaster Program Manager-Surge Programs

Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency
10100 Pioneer Blvd, Suite 200
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
(562) 347-1500

Contributors to the 2024 EMS Agency Pediatric Acute Surge Plan

Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency thanks the following contributors to the updates of the LA County Pediatric Acute Surge Plan.

Yonca Bulut MD, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center
Erika Cheung, MSN, RN, CPN Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Terry Crammer, RN, LAC EMS Agency
Sabrina Derrington, Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Laura Garcia, RN, PIH Health Whittier
Marianne Gauche-Hill, MD, LAC EMS Agency
Brad Goldberg, MD, Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Alex Lichtenstein, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center
Lorna Mendoza, RN, BSN, PHN, MICN LAC EMS Agency
Sandy Montero, RN, MICN, LAC EMS Agency
Kellyn Pak, MSN, RN, TCRN, CEN, MICN, LAC EMS Agency
Karen Rodgers, RN, BSN, LAC EMS Agency
Chris Sandoval, BSN, RN, MICN, LAC EMS Agency
Steve Shrubb, RN, BSN, MemorialCare Long Beach Medical Center
Gabrielle Smith, BSN, RN, MICN, MemorialCare Long Beach Medical Center
James Tong, MD, Kaiser Foundation Hospital – Woodland Hills
Essence Wilson, BSN, PHN, MICN, LAC EMS Agency

This project was sponsored by the Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency and funded in part by the Hospital Preparedness Program, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) grant funding.

Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) U90TP000516. (2015-2016)

Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) U90 (2022)

Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN) U3REP240735 (2024)



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Pediatric Acute Surge Plan

Table of Contents

	Page
Los Angeles County Pediatric Acute Surge Plan	5
Activation & Notification	5
Operations	5
Deactivation	6
Overview of Patient Distribution by Tier	8
 Appendices	
A. Translating Triage to Tier: Tool for the LAC EMS Agency Medical Alert Center	
B. Comprehensive Tier Descriptions	
C. Hospital Listing by Pediatric Acute Surge Tier	
D. Health Care Surge Strategies	
E. Children with Access and Functional Needs	
F. Background, Initial Needs Assessment, and Gap Analysis	
G. History and Summary of Revisions	

-This page intentionally left blank-

Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency Pediatric Acute Surge Plan

The goal of the Pediatric Acute Surge plan is to double the County of Los Angeles (LAC) collective inpatient pediatric capacity. All hospitals are requested to plan for an event resulting in an acute surge of pediatric patients. The definition of acute surge of patients is a sudden and substantial increase in the number of patients requiring medical attention within a short time frame, typically due to an acute event such as a mass casualty incident (MCI). This plan is founded on a tiered system based on pediatric emergency care resources and pediatric inpatient capacity and capability. Therefore, patient age and acuity need to be considered when determining the location where children will be treated. The goal is to expand hospitals' existing capabilities and triage the most critically ill or injured children to those hospitals accustomed to treating them. Although hospital capabilities and capacity vary, all hospitals will need to participate to meet the needs of children.

Activation & Notification

The EMS Agency Pediatric Acute Surge Plan may be activated in response to an event that has a disproportionate or large number of pediatric patients in which the need exceeds the day-to-day available resources. This plan will be activated by the EMS Agency through the use of ReddiNet® and transfers through the EMS Agency Medical Alert Center (MAC). The EMS Agency will be responsible for activating the plan based upon the information they receive about a given incident.

The MAC will notify all hospitals and prehospital providers that the Pediatric Acute Surge Plan has been activated through the ReddiNet® messaging module. Pre-notification, based on events leading up to the acute surge, may be provided at the discretion of the MAC and Medical Officer on Duty (MOD). Bed availability and facility assessment polls may be issued to determine activation.

Operations

LAC EMS Agency

- The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency Medical Coordination Center (MCC), as the Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC), will monitor hospital bed availability and coordinate the distribution of pediatric patients within the County's healthcare system using the Pediatric Acute Surge Plan as a guide to where patients should go and how many patients hospitals have agreed to accommodate.
- To facilitate the distribution of pediatric patients, the MCC will coordinate transportation and destination of prehospital patients, facilitate interfacility transfers, as needed, and waive the requirements for Reference No. 510, Pediatric Patient Destination, as applicable.
- Pediatric Acute Surge Plan patients shall be distributed to an appropriate level of care given the specific circumstances of the situation, a trauma versus a medical event. The tiers provide general guidelines that may be used in a surge that

disproportionately affects children as a method for supporting the distribution of patients throughout the County. (**Figure 1**, an overview of patient distribution by tier).

- The type of event, regional resource capability, and current burden of acute care will be taken into account by LAC EMS Agency when coordinating patient distribution with prehospital providers.
 - a. **Trauma event:** The MCC or the Medical Alert Center (MAC) will utilize LAC pediatric trauma centers (PTC) for the youngest and most traumatically injured pediatric patients.
 - b. **Medical event:** The MCC or the MAC will utilize LAC pediatric medical centers (PMC) for the youngest and most critically ill pediatric patients.

Hospitals

- To expand the hospital's existing capability, each individual hospital will determine what specific strategies to implement to meet their surge capacity target. For reference, surge strategies are provided in **Appendix D** of this document.
- Hospitals will utilize the clinical practices of pediatric care and/or the "Los Angeles County Pediatric Readiness Project" (PRP) to develop and maintain a plan that meets the needs to the hospital's tier role. See <https://lapedsready.org/>.
- If an interfacility transfer is required for a higher or lower level of care, the hospital will need to contact the MCC to coordinate the transfer.
- All communication regarding plan activation, resource requests, and patient transfers will utilize the MCC for everyday systems and procedures.

Prehospital Providers

- Pediatric Acute Surge Plan providers will continue to work with the MCC through standard operating procedures to distribute patients.
 - o The MCC will take into account the activation of the Pediatric Acute Surge Plan and will provide hospital destination information by utilizing the tiered guidelines.

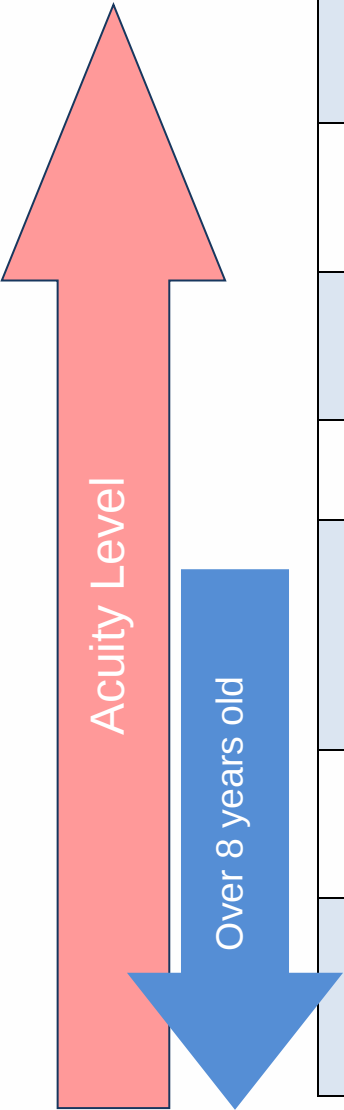
Deactivation

As the LAC MCC monitors hospital bed availability and coordinates the distribution of pediatric patients, they will determine that the when the pediatric surge has concluded when all pediatric patients who require inpatient hospitalization are admitted to appropriate Tier 1-4 facilities. There may be a need to transition into additional surge plans should the need arise. The LAC MCC will then take the appropriate steps to deactivate the Pediatric Acute Surge Plan, to include:

- Notifying all necessary hospitals and prehospital providers in Los Angeles County via ReddiNet® of the conclusion of the pediatric surge
- Reinstating Reference No. 510, Pediatric Patient Destination, as applicable.

Figure 1 - Overview of Patient Distribution by Tier

* Note: In a pediatric trauma surge event, patients would go to Tier 3 before Tier 2



HOSPITAL TIER	TIER DESCRIPTION
Tier 1	Pediatric Centers (PTC/PMC)
Tier 2*	Pediatric Medical Centers (PMC)
Tier 3	Adult Trauma Centers
Tier 4	Pediatric Acute Inpatient Bed
Tier 5	Emergency Department Approved for Pediatrics (EDAP) do not provide inpatient pediatric services
Tier 6	No Pediatric Services
Tier 7	No Emergency Services/ Specialty Centers