HEADS UP…

The Joint Commission

TOPIC: Availability of resuscitative services for pediatrics
***SETTING:* Hospital (HAP) and Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Programs**

Why is this important?

Having appropriate resuscitation equipment available is crucial for timely response to life-threatening emergencies. With pediatric patients requiring specialized interventions and equipment, it is critical that this equipment is readily available, in proper working order, and without expired medications and supplies.

Note: This Heads Up Report is focused on PC.02.01.11 EP 2, focusing on pediatrics, and this standard/EP is currently not a frequently cited standard/EP for the HAP or CAH program. However, Joint Commission staff have noted that PC.02.01.11 EP 2 is a topic of interest and often addressed during the survey process. As such, this Heads Up Report is intended to bring awareness to this topic and is based less on recent observations and more on feedback during this period.

Scope of the Problem:

Time period: **January 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023**
Relevant standard/EP: PC.02.01.11 Resuscitative services are available throughout the hospital.
EP 2 Resuscitation equipment is available for use based on the needs of the population served. Note: For example, if the hospital has a pediatric population, pediatric resuscitation equipment should be available. (See also EC.02.04.03, EP 2)

Sample survey observations [from surveyor notes] and contributing factors

Sample Observations:

- During pediatric sedation unit tour, the defibrillator was plugged into a non-emergency power source.
- The crash cart in the pediatric emergency department had several days of missed code cart checks on the documentation log sheet.
- Five packs of pediatric electrodes on the pediatric crash cart were expired but were available for patient use.
- In the North Central Pediatric ED, an emergency airway box in the trauma room contained an ETCO2 detector and endotracheal tube that had expired.
- Expired batteries were found inside three laryngoscope handles in the Pediatric Emergency Airway box. There were no other pediatric laryngoscope handles available for possible intubation outside this Pediatric Emergency airway box.

Potential contributing factors:

- Unclear policies and procedures.
- Improper staff training.
- Inadequate or lack of reference materials on resuscitation equipment needs.
- Failure to conduct regular audits on expiration dates and battery life.

How to identify potential problems in your organization

Review your policies and procedures

☐ Does the organization have a procedure for conducting regular crash cart checks?
☐ Does the organization have policies and procedures for emergency pediatric patients and are they up-to-date?
☐ Does the organization perform drills regarding transferring pediatric patients to tertiary centers and are they performed regularly?

Interview staff

☐ Does the organization have someone in the emergency room that is dedicated to overseeing the pediatric service line?
☐ Are there employees in the emergency room competent to manage life-threatening pediatric situations?
☐ Can staff demonstrate knowledge of the processes to eliminate / minimize risk in the physical environment?

Assess your environment

☐ Does the organization have all the various sizes for life sustaining pediatric equipment in all pediatric treatment areas?
☐ Does the organization conduct regular inventory audits of pediatric equipment?
☐ Are materials available that help with medication dosages and Joule requirements for pediatric patients?

Evaluate implementation

☐ Does the organization have specific pediatric key performance indicators in all pediatric treatment areas to drive improved outcomes?

What are some resources that can assist in mitigating risks in these areas?

- Emergency Medical Services for Children National Pediatric Readiness Project National Pediatric Readiness Project • EIIC (emscimprovement.center)
- The Joint Commission Quick Safety Issue: Crash-cart Preparedness Quick Safety Issue 32: Crash-cart preparedness | The Joint Commission
- National Academy of Pediatrics: Resources Recommended for the Care of Pediatric Patients in Hospitals Resources Recommended for the Care of Pediatric Patients in Hospitals | Pediatrics | American Academy of Pediatrics (aap.org)
- National Academy of Pediatrics: Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit: Pediatric Preparedness Resource Kit (aap.org)