

Spring 2025 • Issue 15

R BABY PARTNERS WITH FIRST FOCUS ON BECA ACT TO IMPROVE PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY READINESS FOR ALL CHILDREN ACROSS THE U.S.

New Collaboration Aims to Save Thousands of Young Lives By Improving Pediatric Readiness In US Emergency Systems Through National Policy Changes

R Baby Foundation is collaborating with First Focus on Children to champion the Babies and Children's Emergency Care Act (BECA). This initiative aims to address a long-overlooked crisis in our healthcare system: the lack of pediatric-specific emergency care across the nation. BECA seeks to ensure that all emergency rooms are equipped to meet the unique needs of infants and children, guaranteeing that every child, regardless of location or condition severity, has access to high-quality emergency care.

THE ISSUE

The U.S. currently rates a D+ in pediatric emergency readiness and this collaboration seeks to address these critical issues and advocate for national policy changes.

Children account for over 30 million emergency department (ED) visits annually, representing 20% of all ED visits in the U.S. **Despite this, a recent analysis suggests that approximately 80% of U.S. EDs are not fully prepared to handle children's emergencies.**

A lack of pediatric emergency readiness is leading to delayed or incorrect diagnoses, inappropriate treatments, suboptimal care, and tragic outcomes. **If all EDs were pediatric ready we could save the lives of 2100 children each year.**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services sets the standards - or conditions of participation - for hospitals to participate in Medicare and Medicaid.

Currently, the conditions of participation related to emergency services standards do not account for the very specific needs of children in emergencies.

Pediatric-specific recommendations from national groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, and Emergency Nurses Association, are not mandatory standards and only 19 states have programs to verify pediatric readiness.

THE SOLUTION

Improving Pediatric Emergency Readiness for Children

Set Mandatory Guidelines — The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) must set clear, mandatory, and pediatric-specific standards for hospitals. CMS should promulgate a regulation setting out pediatric emergency readiness as a condition of participation (CoP) for hospitals in Medicare and Medicaid. In the CoP, CMS should utilize the resources of the **National Pediatric Readiness Project**, including its checklist and toolkit for all ED providers to help facilitate the delivery of emergency care to all children.

These requirements would ensure hospitals are providing high-quality emergency care to children, including:

- maintaining the necessary pediatric equipment for initial resuscitation and stabilization, including immediate access to a weight-based pediatric

resuscitation cart and adopting policies such as weighing and recording patient weights in kilograms only for patient safety.

- appointing an individual to provide administrative oversight of pediatric care within ED policies and practices often referred to as a Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator.
- integrating components of pediatric care into quality improvement activities to monitor adherence to standards of care and develop strategies for improvement.

Transparency of Pediatric Readiness Levels

– Readiness levels should be published and accessible to the public. Families must be able to easily identify which hospitals are best equipped for pediatric care. 🐾

R BABY WINS 2024 TELLY AWARD

R Baby and our partners at All That's Good won a 2024 Telly Award in the Not-For-Profit - Online category for a promotional video to spark meaningful conversation and positive change in the flawed emergency pediatric readiness system.

We are grateful to All That's Good and Brick + Vine PR for helping us tell our story! 🐾

[Watch the winning video.](#)



R BABY FOUNDATION CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN

On June 26, 2024, R Baby co-founder Phyllis Rabinowitz joined the **Speaking of Kids** podcast with First Focus to discuss the importance of tailoring emergency care to the needs of babies and children.

Phyllis emphasized the importance for emergency care to be tailored to the needs of babies and children adding the recommendation that parents research their local emergency room(s) to see if they have pediatric care coordinators and meet a checklist of pediatric preparedness standards. 🐾

“There are achievable, attainable and affordable solutions to the critical issue of improving pediatric emergency care. Partnering with First Focus on Children is a monumental step to ensuring no child is left without essential emergency medical support. Together, we are not only raising awareness but actively driving change to create safer, more prepared emergency systems for our kids.”

~ Phyllis Rabinowitz, Co-Founder and Co-President of R Baby Foundation

“No family should ever have to endure the loss of a child because of the failure of our medical system to address the unique health care needs of children. We look forward to working with R Baby to raise awareness around pediatric readiness in the nation’s emergency rooms and to drive real, actionable policy change that will create safer emergency environments for all of our babies and children. Every child should have access to life-saving emergency care, regardless of who they are or where they live.”

~ Bruce Lesley, President, First Focus on Children



With your support for 18 years, R Baby's commitment and years of innovative granting has helped front line responders and hospitals be better prepared to care for pediatric emergencies. Because of your support, R Baby is saving lives. Since R Baby Foundation's inception in 2006, our vision has been to save as many babies' and children's lives as possible.

R Baby continues to impact over 1,200 ERs nationally and **has added both EMT programs (pre-hospital) and more rural support in 2024** along with our continual lifesaving support in as many ERs as we possibly can.

For nearly two decades, **R Baby's training has been accepted and embraced at every ER we have offered it to and has never been turned away.** This speaks volumes to how much pediatric emergency training is needed and wanted.

Phoenix Children's Hospital

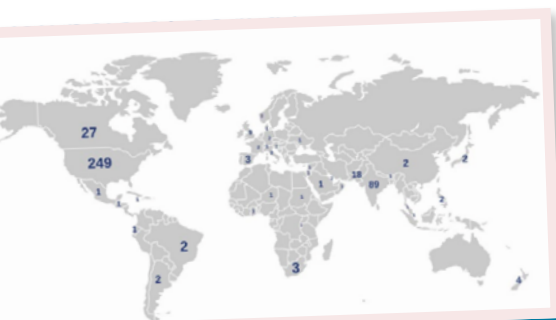
R Baby Foundation is proud to fund Phoenix Children's Hospital's Simulance program to continue to expand critical training for first responders and enhance statewide pediatric emergency care. EMTs, paramedics, and nurses earn Continuing Education credit while practicing their technical skills in a realistic environment.

Feedback from the training indicates that participants' comfort levels increased significantly, from "terrified" to "comfortable" or "confident" after engaging in Simulance high-fidelity scenarios as part of this program.



Columbia Presbyterian-INSPIRE: The Latest Pediatric Educational Training Shared Globally

Sponsored by R Baby since its inception as POISE, this collaborative medical education research network develops and shares novel educational training modules, webinars and other resources that result in measurable improvements in the health outcomes of acutely ill infants and children.



**INSPIRE has:
612 community
members and
124 sites
in 36 countries.**

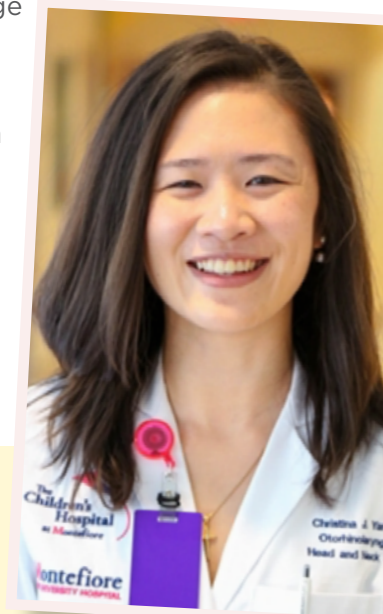
2024 R Baby-INSPIRE Award for Advancing Pediatric Emergency Medical Care

In 2024, R Baby presented the first — R Baby-INSPIRE Award for Advancing Pediatric Emergency Medical Care.

This award provides a funding opportunity to support groundbreaking investigators in simulation-based research for pediatric emergencies.

The 2024 recipient is **Christina Yang**, Associate Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital at Montefiore, for the project **PEAK II: Harnessing Simulation to Promote Airway Emergency Readiness.**

Dr. Yang shared why having access to funding like this is important as a researcher and how it moves the ball forward to improving pediatric emergency care.



"As a pediatric otolaryngologist, I have committed my career to helping infants and children breathe. With the support of R Baby and INSPIRE, our Prevention of Errors in Acute conditions in Kids (PEAK)-II network has been able to harness diverse clinical expertise, healthcare simulation, quality improvement, human factor, smartphone technology, and human factors principles to improve team and system readiness for acute respiratory compromise and tracheostomy emergencies. We continue to strive to improve the reliability and safety of pediatric emergency care so that children with airway compromise can breathe easier.

On behalf of the entire PEAK-II Investigator team, thank you again to R Baby for supporting our work!"

~Dr. Christina Yang

University of Mississippi Medical Center Training Through the Pediatric Advance Resuscitation Training and Emergency (PARTNER) Program: Resuscitation Education and Training in Rural Hospitals in Mississippi



Pediatric resuscitation supply bags given during 8 hour hands-on training course.

Since 2023, R Baby has supported The Pediatric Advanced Resuscitation Training and Emergency Readiness (PARTNER) program providing resuscitation education and training to providers in rural hospitals across Mississippi.

Many small community-based emergency providers do not have the resources necessary to provide optimum clinical stabilization for young patients who present with life-threatening medical emergencies.

This gap can be a result of an infrequency of

pediatric encounters, the lack of specialized equipment, the funding available to pay for training or even inadequate staffing levels.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center's Pediatric and Neonatal Transport Teams created the PARTNER program and are implementing it across the state. This 8-hour course includes information, hands-on simulation training and a leave-behind 'kit' with neonatal and pediatric resuscitation supplies that might be needed while managing a pediatric emergency. The training is designed to help reduce the high mortality rate of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens by improving the management of pediatric emergencies. **The vision is to provide children in Mississippi's most rural communities the greatest chance of survival when a serious illness or injury occurs.**



PARTNER continues to expand to reach a broader scope of providers including pre-hospital professionals and has added to the scope of the training by enhancing and expanding the simulation/scenario experiences.

In addition, PARTNER supply bags will be distributed to each hospital that participates and will include critical supplies many of these hospitals may not currently have.

Mass General: findERnow App Helps Parents Find Closest ER More Likely to be Prepared for Their Child

R Baby continues to share the pediatric version of the app, findERnow developed by the experts at EMNet at Massachusetts General Hospital. The app includes pediatric information to help parents and caregivers find the closest ER more likely to be prepared for their child.

Reviews shared on both the Apple Store and Android Store prove it has helped families and saved lives. Download today and share with parents and caregivers.

Results from the most recent research resulted in multiple manuscripts and presentations.

"When I discovered this app, I knew that it would be a must have. Not only is it useful for those in healthcare, it is equally as useful to families and individuals alike. This app is handy, and it provides helpful information that may be life saving at a times notice. I recommended this to one of the families that I care for, and she was extremely glad that an app like this exists. I love the pediatric feature - it helps you become aware of the most appropriate hospitals near you to treat children - which is different than adult care! Easily will stay in my emergency folder, to use at any moment's notice!"

~iPhone user January 2024

Yale School of Medicine-ImpACTS: Pediatric Training in ERs to Raise Preparedness For Children Simulation Training

Led by the Yale School of Medicine, R Baby continues to support ImpACTS year over year because of their proven results in improving pediatric emergency care. ImpACTS provides cycles of pediatric simulation-based assessment and training to Community ERs where most children are seen. The ImpACTS team initially assesses an ER's pediatric equipment and supplies and then provides critical pediatric emergency training where it's most needed. The ERs then receive a post-training assessment to identify improvements and provide additional areas of support.

Components for intervention after simulations include:

- increased frequency of interactions between children's hospitals and community ERs.
- more specific latest guidance on resources for pediatric care including supplies, equipment and best practices.
- more ongoing simulation-based training enhances leadership support at community hospitals.

R BABY IN THE NEWS

The New York Sun and BNN Breaking interviewed R Baby in 2024 regarding the national crisis surrounding pediatric emergency readiness leading to more awareness and support.



The New York Times also covered the cost-effectiveness of pediatric readiness noting that researchers have found that if every emergency room in the United States were fully prepared to treat children, thousands of lives would be saved and the cost would be \$11.84 or less per child.



Kids Helping Kids

On Dec 7th, The R Baby Club at Millburn High School raised \$2000 to help prepare hospitals for sick kids. We are so proud of this crew for their hard work on raising funds by planning and organizing a festive holiday party. Thank you to Peyton Rosenbaum, Ryder Rabinowitz and Gabby Port!

Destination Divas and R Baby Foundation

R Baby's 2022 Hero Recipient, Alexis Pomierski Marano, joined Destination Divas on The Travel Channel and helped R Baby Foundation's mission go national!



Alexis shared the importance of giving back and the critical mission of R Baby to improve pediatric emergency care. 🧡

R BABY 2024 HERO DR. KATHERINE REMICK

Co-Director of the National Pediatric Readiness Project
Co-Director, National EMS for Children Innovation
and Improvement Center

Medical Director, San Marcos Hays County EMS System
Dell Medical School | The University of Texas at Austin

Dr. Remick has devoted her life to improving pediatric care for all of our children. Her extensive background in pediatric emergency care, prehospital care, systems-based quality improvement methodology, data transformation platforms, evaluation/measurement, and survey design has helped her efforts to ensure emergency care systems are optimized to meet the needs of children.

Dr. Remick is Co-Director of the National Pediatric Readiness Project—a national quality improvement initiative of 25 national professional organizations, regulatory bodies, and federal entities focused on improving the national emergency care system for children.



“We are so grateful for Dr. Remick’s determined drive and initiatives for the necessary changes in pediatric emergency care that are proven to save lives. Her collaborative research and guidelines are exactly what was needed for change makers to see how feasible and cost-effective it would be to make every ER ready for every child. We look forward to continuing to partner with Dr. Remick and watch her champion the standard of emergency care to what all children deserve.”

~ Phyllis Rabinowitz

The National Pediatric Readiness Quality Initiative is the first-of-its-kind national QI data platform that supports emergency department teams to optimize pediatric emergency care processes, drive the best possible outcomes, and serves as the first window into the state of emergency care for children in the US. Dr. Remick has led numerous large-scale national quality improvement collaboratives that have engaged hundreds of front line healthcare providers, hospitals, and EMS agencies across the United States and abroad. Her work transects policy development, survey design, advocacy, health system transformation, and the creation of data visualization platforms and registries to ensure system-level readiness and, ultimately, high-quality emergency care for children. 🦶

“Together as healthcare leaders, researchers, clinicians, and community partners, we have the power under a unified voice to transform our emergency care systems. On behalf of children and families, we must. Thank you to the R Baby Foundation for forging this path forward. I am honored to receive this award, however I am but one of the many champions who have cultivated and amplified this work over the last several decades.”

~ Dr. Katherine Remick

PrepareERsForKidsFund

[Support PrepareERsForKids Fund: Donations to R Baby Foundation's New Fund Will Go Directly to Help Prepare ERs for All Children Pediatric Readiness](#)

For years, experts have championed the importance of pediatric readiness in our nation's ERs. [A 2022 study](#) found that being highly ready can reduce pediatric mortality risk by up to **76 percent**. Additionally, **hospitals with high Emergency Department readiness scores demonstrate a 4-times lower rate of mortality for children with critical illness than those with lower readiness scores; thus, improving pediatric readiness improves outcomes for children and their families.**

The data provides tangible proof that programs, such as those funded by R Baby for life-saving infant mannequin simulation training and education programs, save lives and shows a direct correlation between these types of interventions and the SURVIVAL of our children.

For 18 years, R Baby Foundation has worked to improve pediatric emergency care for babies and children across the United States, directly enhancing

the care of over 1 million children each year – and **now, more than ever**, the urgency for pediatric readiness in ERs is critical to saving young lives.

In 2024, R Baby has launched a new fund specifically created to bring critically needed training, education and resources to help improve the pediatric readiness of ERs, including in your community.

The National Pediatric Readiness Project has provided a [Checklist](#) and [Toolkit](#) for all ER providers to help facilitate the delivery of high-quality emergency care to all children.

These resources and recommendations are based on the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, and Emergency Nurses Association's 2018 joint policy statement.

The specific recommendations provide a way for hospitals to check to see if their ER has the most critical components suggested, including policies and procedures, protocols, staffing, equipment, medications, supplies, and more.

All donations to R Baby's PrepareERsForKidsFund **will go directly to these proven guidelines** on how to make ERs ready for kids.

RBaby foundation *saving babies' lives*

PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY READINESS

THE LIFELINE OUR KIDS DESERVE

THE ISSUE

80% OF U.S. HOSPITALS ARE **NOT FULLY PREPARED TO HANDLE PEDIATRIC EMERGENCIES DESPITE THE FACT THAT CHILDREN MAKE UP ABOUT 20% OF VISITS EACH YEAR.**
*Health Affairs, 2024

THE RESEARCH

1 OUT OF 4 CHILD DEATHS MAY BE PREVENTED

Each year through universal high Emergency Department pediatric readiness
*JAMA Network Open, 2024

OVER 2,100 PEDIATRIC LIVES MAY BE SAVED EACH YEAR THROUGH UNIVERSAL HIGH ED PEDIATRIC READINESS

*JAMA Network Open, 2024

THE TIME FOR CHANGE IS NOW • LEARN MORE AT WWW.RBABYFOUNDATION.ORG

THE RISK FACTORS

- D+** The median pediatric readiness score for U.S. hospitals (69.5 score out of 100)
*JAMA Network Open, 2023
- 1/3** Of U.S. children do not live near a fully pediatric ready Emergency Department
*JAMA Network Open, 2024
- Proven guidelines & affordable solutions** to prepare all emergency systems & staff for pediatric emergencies **DO exist**, but they are **NOT currently mandated by law**
*National Pediatric Readiness Project, 2024

THE REALITY IS STARK:
"Our emergency systems were never designed with children in mind, putting their lives at risk every time they enter an unprepared ER."

- Phyllis Rabinowitz, Co-Founder and Co-President of R Baby Foundation

PEDIATRIC READINESS IS COST EFFECTIVE

The annual cost per child to fully prepare ERs in most states is

LESS THAN \$12
*JAMA Network Open, 2024

PEDIATRIC READINESS SAVES LIVES

- Children have a **60-76% lower mortality risk** for critically ill or injured children treated at ERs with high pediatric readiness
*JAMA Network Open, 2022
- Proven guidelines and affordable solutions for pediatric emergency readiness that currently exist **must be mandated by law**

CHILDREN HAVE A

76%

LOWER MORTALITY RISK
AFTER RECEIVING INITIAL CARE
AT EDS WITH A HIGH
PEDIATRIC READINESS SCORE.



VIEW PEDIATRIC READINESS
SCORES BY STATE

PLEASE VISIT HERE TO DONATE TO PrepareERsForKidsFund

Learn more about the importance of pediatric readiness for all of our children below.

- [View pediatric readiness scores by state.](#)
- For more information on pediatric readiness, visit [The National Pediatric Readiness Project.](#)
- Read more about the importance of high pediatric readiness scores below:
- [Pediatric readiness key to children's survival one year out from injury.](#)
- [JAMA: Association of Emergency Department Pediatric Readiness With Mortality to 1 Year Among Injured Children Treated at Trauma Centers](#)
- [Evaluation of Emergency Department Pediatric Readiness and Outcomes Among US Trauma Centers](#)
- [Ames SG, Davis BS, Marin JR, L. Fink EL, Olson LM, Gausche-Hill M, Kahn JM. Emergency Department Pediatric Readiness and Mortality in Critically Ill Children.](#)
- [Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department and Its Association With Patient Outcomes in Critical Care: A Prospective Cohort Study](#)

A study of 4,840 ERs found an estimated 2,100 pediatric deaths may have been prevented had these ERs had higher pediatric readiness.

WANT TO IMPACT YOUR COMMUNITY? SPONSOR YOUR ER!

Would you like to Sponsor Your ER? This program is a unique partnership between parents, local ERs and top Children's Hospitals that helps communities bring R Baby's mobile simulator training to their local community hospital. Led by top pediatric experts, your support of raising \$5,000 to \$20,000, can bring specific levels of training to your local community ER — one to four times a year. This simulation training helps educate, improve patient outcomes and raise the standard of care, benefiting all the neonates, infants, and children facing emergency situations. **If you are interested in making a difference in your local ER or an ER you want to see improved contact Katie at katie@rbabyfoundation.**

SPONSOR your ER+

Help Your Community Prepare
for Pediatric Emergencies

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Rebecca would have turned 18 this year. Instead, I hold only the memories of my precious baby girl—nine fragile days that changed our lives forever. Where there should have been milestones, dreams, and a lifetime of possibilities, there is a void in our hearts that will never be filled. An absence that has fueled our mission for 18 years.



We were never afforded the chance to know her laugh, her personality, her passions. But through R Baby, we've worked tirelessly to ensure other children get the chance Rebecca was denied—the chance to live a full life.

Our life-saving programs have spread across the nation and globe, bringing hope and real change to the lack of pediatric emergency preparedness. Yet, the painful truth remains that an organization like R Baby shouldn't even need to exist. We know there are proven, cost-effective solutions from pediatric experts that could transform emergency care for children. These solutions are feasible, available, and affordable.

So, we must ask:

Why isn't this existing standard of care available for all our vulnerable children?

Why do we continue to risk young lives when we have the knowledge and means to protect them?

Our ultimate goal is to make R Baby obsolete. We are working tirelessly to pass the **Babies and Children's Emergency Care Act (BECA)**, which would federally mandate comprehensive pediatric emergency preparedness. If successful, R Baby would celebrate closing its doors—because every child would receive the critical care they deserve.

We hope to share more soon about turning this vision into a legal reality, to drive tangible change for our kids. Because every baby and child deserve a fighting chance.

Thank you for your continued support in honoring Rebecca's memory and for joining us in the fight to change the future for all children.

With Hope & Determination,

Phyllis Rabinowitz

Co-president R Baby Foundation



GET INVOLVED!

CONTACT [KATIE@RBABYFOUNDATION.ORG](mailto:katie@rbabyfoundation.org)

VOLUNTEER • JOIN OUR BOARD • DONATE TO R BABY FOUNDATION
LEAVE A LEGACY GIFT THROUGH YOUR ESTATE • A GIFT OF STOCK

FOLLOW US ON

R BABY FOUNDATION