

Improving emergency care for children in Canada

Who we are

Research plays an important role in improving health care. But we know that most research takes years to be put into practice, or doesn't get used at all¹. Translating Emergency Knowledge for Kids (TREKK) was created in 2011 to change this for children's emergency care. We get evidence-based resources and tools to emergency healthcare providers, parents, and families in ways they want to use them. We do this by listening to them, learning about what they want, what they're doing, the barriers they face, and then working together to co-create solutions.

Why we are needed

In Canada, up to 85% of children who need emergency care are first treated in general emergency departments (ED)² that are not part of a children's hospital. Healthcare professionals have expressed concerns in caring for children in general ED settings. Developing pediatric (child health) expertise in these settings is difficult, as certain conditions occur infrequently and accessing pediatric-specific training

and protocols can be a challenge³. These concerns are well founded; it has been estimated that as many as 40% of children who visit general EDs do not receive evidence-based treatment and up to 20% receive non-beneficial or even harmful treatment⁵⁻⁹.

Worried families are also faced with making decisions on how best to care for their sick or injured

We connect pediatric and emergency clinicians, researchers, administrators, and parents, representing Canada's children's hospitals, over 165 general EDs and nursing stations, and over 25 organizations with the collective aim to improve children's emergency care across Canada and beyond.

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Our national needs assessment asked thousands of ED clinicians and parents across Canada about their information needs and preferences³. Results from the needs assessment revealed:

- 1** emergency topics to prioritize for knowledge mobilization;
- 2** a need for accessible, practical tools and resources (e.g., short summary documents) to support healthcare professionals to use the best available evidence in practice;
- 3** a need for more interpersonal strategies, including professional development opportunities;
- 4** parents want more health information when their child is sick and are searching the internet to get this information.

What we do

Develop Tools + Resources

We bring together parents, clinical experts, librarians, researchers, and communication specialists to review, curate, and co-create evidence-informed tools and resources for both general ED teams and parents. Doing this work at a national level, across provincial and regional boundaries, and with the flexibility to adapt them to local contexts, can reduce inefficiencies in developing similar resources in different parts of the country and promote consistent, high-quality care.



High quality emergency care for children and youth across Canada.



Networking

Collaborations make what we do possible. Building connections with people and groups across the healthcare system help us pool resources from various regions and disciplines, and use our collective and diverse experiences to enrich our ideas, thinking, and solutions.



Research

We work with national and international research groups to keep informed of the latest evidence in children's emergency care. We also pursue opportunities to test and improve how we mobilize this evidence, and how our efforts are making a difference.

Education

General and pediatric ED teams work together to plan and coordinate education sessions to share knowledge, ask questions, and build relationships between the teams. Whenever possible, our education sessions happen within the general ED, to offer simulation sessions and identify any environmental and systemic issues, such as equipment concerns, medication availability, and team dynamics.



Our impact

We are addressing a need for evidence-based, easily accessible, and practical resources that meet the information needs and preferences of both families and emergency healthcare professionals.

1800+

online resources freely available for parents and healthcare professionals in urban, remote or rural communities across Canada.

Created

145+



evidence-based resources and tools with healthcare professionals and parents/families

Provided

165+



education sessions to **2400+** healthcare professionals

Connected with

160+



EDs & nursing stations, measured by web metrics, case stories, and social networking analysis¹³.



To learn more about how we are improving emergency care for children across Canada's cities, towns, and remote communities, connect with us online:

[See the full list of references here.](#)



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Contact trekk@chrim.ca to find out more on how to support our work. We are grateful for the many people and organizations that have supported TREKK, including the [Children's Hospital Foundation of Manitoba](#), and the [Government of Canada's NCE KM initiative](#). [See the full list of our supporters.](#)