



American College of
Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

POLICY STATEMENT

Approved June 2013

The Role of Emergency Physicians in the Care of Children

Reaffirmed June 2013,
October 2007

Revised June 2001

Approved January 1996

Rescinded in June 1995

Originally approved
September 1989, rescinded in
June 1995

As an adjunct to this policy
statement, ACEP has prepared
a policy resource and
education paper (PREP) titled
“Report on Preparedness of
the Emergency Department
for the Care of Children”

Emergency physicians treat the majority of acutely ill and injured children in the United States.

By virtue of their training and experience, emergency physicians are fully qualified to provide initial stabilization and treatment of childhood emergencies. In this capacity, emergency physicians:

- Advocate for emergency preparedness for the care of sick and injured children by ensuring that policies, procedures, and environmental designs are determined by the unique needs of each emergency department and community.
- Ensure quality, family-centered patient care and optimal access to facilities and specialists by collaborating with primary care providers and children and their families.
- Educate staff on the option for family presence during procedures and resuscitations in the emergency department.
- Promote injury and illness prevention for children, parents, and their community.