

Paediatric Emergency Medicine

Key Principles

- The principles of emergency care apply equally to care of adults and children. The clinical expertise resides within the specialties of Emergency Medicine and Paediatrics.
- Paediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) is closely affiliated with Primary care, Public health and Paediatric Critical care.
- The Emergency Medicine Programme (EMP) recommends that the development of PEM services should be considered in the context of the overall recommendations of the EMP and National Paediatric Clinical Programme and advanced through close collaboration with these programmes as well as the National Quality Improvement Division.
- The EMP recommends a Child and Family Centred Care (CFCC) approach to the planning, delivery and evaluation of health care of children that is grounded in a mutually beneficial partnership between patients, families and health care professionals.
- The EMP advocates for all children presenting to acute medical facilities nationally and recommends a National standard of care.
- The operational definition of paediatric age for emergency care is younger than 16 years. This is a pragmatic definition to enable care to be standardised across all Emergency Departments and acute hospitals that has been agreed with the National Paediatric Programme, the Quality and Patient Safety Directorate of the HSE and the Unscheduled Care Governance Group of the National Clinical Programmes. The legal definition of an adult is 18 years.