The Role of Kentucky Kids Crew in Pediatric Trauma: 
A Link in the Chain of Survival

The Kentucky Kids Crews stabilizes the most critical infants and children from all parts of the state and brings them to Kentucky Children’s Hospital for definitive care. The professionals on our team initiate intensive care from the moment they arrive at the referring facility. Indeed, on many occasions, the actual transport back to Kentucky Children’s Hospital can be delayed while the transport team is doing a short period of rapid assessment and resuscitation. To date, the majority of pediatric critical care transports are for medical and surgical conditions. We have not had many transports for kids suffering from traumatic injury. The professionals at Kentucky Children’s Hospital are hoping to change this. Over the past several months, your transport team and its leaders have studied whether we should add this population to the team’s duties. This article outlines why we think that there are instances where we can improve care for pediatric patients injured in major traumas.

When a pediatric patient is injured, our data shows that there an average of six hours pass before the child reaches Kentucky Children’s Hospital. As you may know, The American College of Surgeons recommends that any injured patient begin definitive care with one hour of injury. We know that our rural landscape makes this much more difficult here in Kentucky. Kentucky Children’s Hospital is one of two Level 1 trauma centers in the state for children. Local EMS crews need to get an injured patient to the nearest facility if they can't be flown directly to Kentucky Children’s Hospital. This is where the Kentucky Kids Crew can be most effective. We believe that our transport team can bring its expertise to our referring facilities when a child is injured and actually reduce the time before the child begins vital ICU care.

How would this work? Well, when a child reached a regional center, the doctors there could quickly assess the patient. Knowing the child needs to be transferred is rarely the problem, but finding the right advanced pediatric team to do the transport can cause critical delays and ultimately affect the child’s outcome in a negative way. Also, having the expertise in infant and pediatric procedures and resuscitation can be a challenge to local services already spread thin. After a quick assessment and while resuscitation is initiated, activating our transport team immediately will help get the patient to a higher level of care in that crucial time early after the injury. Call UKMDs at 1-800-888-5533 and ask for the Pediatric ED attending physician. At that time they can dispatch the transport team within minutes.

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The University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Medical Center and Kentucky Children’s Hospital are pleased to offer Level I trauma services to pediatric and adult patients.

In January, 2009, our hospital was reverified by the American College of Surgeons as both a Pediatric Level I Trauma Center and an Adult Level I Trauma Center.

We are very proud of this distinction.

The Makenna David Emergency Department staff is always ready to treat injured children, and we are constantly making changes to make our ED more “kid friendly.” Dr. Craig Carter, who is board certified in pediatrics and emergency medicine, serves as our pediatric emergency department director.

The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Kentucky Children’s Hospital provides comprehensive care for critically ill and injured infants, children, and adolescents.

A pediatric intensivist oversees care using a multidisciplinary team approach including pediatric surgical physicians and subspecialists, pediatric pharmacists, nutritionists, respiratory therapists, physical therapists, and social workers.

For more information: http://www.mc.uky.edu/trauma services/pediatric.html

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When they arrive, they will be able to turn around quickly and have our “Mobile” ICU taking care of the patient sooner.

Who would we transport? First of all, we believe that the younger the child, the more our transport team can help. During the initiation phase of the program, we would transport trauma patients younger than 5 years of age. This is to assure that our resources are there to help you with your smallest patients all the time. We hope to expand as our trauma service matures.

We would love to hear your thoughts as we develop this new service to help you give the best of care to Kentucky’s children.

Joseph Iocono, MD picture with “Stitches” the Kentucky Children’s Hospital Mascot

Alissa Bastin RN, participating in trauma simulations November 2010.
WE LOVE OUR KIDS
Introducing the newest member of our transport team!
William Michael Turner, born November 13, 2010
7lbs 10.5oz and 19¾ inches
Congratulations Mike and Kelly Turner!