

KIDBASE

Kids Information Data Base Access System for Emergencies*

FAQ's

Little Nathan was born with a serious medical condition that requires him to use oxygen and be fed through a gastric tube. In spite of his early trials, Nathan is doing well and his parents have been able to return to their jobs. After careful deliberation, a care giver was found who has some experience with medically involved children. The first few weeks went well but then the unthinkable occurred.

The care giver entered the room to find little Nathan suffering a seizure. She dialed 911 and EMS arrived promptly to help. The baby was transported to the hospital but the doctors had many questions that the care giver was unable to answer. Has he ever had a seizure before? Is he on medication? Does he have an underlying genetic condition or syndrome? What is his baseline oxygen saturation?

Although Nathan was fine and his parents arrived quickly to answer these questions, they soon realized that such a situation could happen again and Nathan's care giver should have access to his medical information.

The KIDBASE program was designed to prevent situations like Nathan's. Many medically fragile children are placed in the hands of care givers on a daily basis who do not have access to the medical data that may be needed to save that child's life in an emergency. Even the best parents find it difficult to remember medical jargon and details in a stressful situation like a medical emergency. Finally, EMS personnel can be better prepared to handle situations like Nathan's if they are made aware on the way to a 911 call that a medically fragile child is involved and that a KIDBASE form is available to provide them with critical medical information.

The program:

The objective of KIDBASE is to identify medically fragile children within the community who are at increased risk of needing emergency medical care. These children are identified and their address and phone number may be entered into the database at the local call dispatch center if the parents/guardians, with the help of their primary care provider, complete a KIDBASE medical information form that they keep with their child at all times. They may also give extra copies of the completed form to the child's care givers, schools and other family members.

Why is this program important?

The program is designed to help EMS agencies better prepare for emergencies involving medically fragile children in their area. Better preparedness means better care and safer kids. Parents will find peace of mind knowing that their child's specific needs will be met in an emergency. The program will help to speed the time it takes for vital medical information to be provided to EMS and emergency department personnel and it will help to prevent inaccurate information from being transmitted. The parents will have the information at their fingertips and not be forced to remember complicated details and medical terminology in a stressful situation. Finally, in the event that the parent is not with the child during the emergency transport, EMS

personnel will still have access to vital medical information.

How is the medical information collected?

Children are identified in the community through pediatricians, schools, birth to three programs, neonatal intensive care units, hospital discharge planners, social workers, community health nurses, insurance companies, concerned parents and others. Once a child has been referred to the program, the parents or guardians are given a KIDBASE medical information form to fill out with the assistance of their primary care physician. Postcards are also given to the parents to send to the local coordinating EMS agency offices. This will allow the agency to flag the telephone number and address of the child in their system. The KIDBASE form remains in the hands of the parents to ensure that only the most current information is used. Copies of the forms may be given by the parents to the child's care givers and schools. One copy is to be kept with the child at all times. We suggest keeping it in the child's school backpack or diaper bag.

How do I use the information in the event of an emergency?

When your child needs EMS services, dial 911 as usual. State the nature of the emergency and your location. You will also need to tell the dispatcher that "This is a KIDBASE child". This will alert EMS to ask for the KIDBASE medical information form when they arrive on the scene. It is very important that the medical data sheet be kept with the child at all times. If the child is transported to the emergency department by the parent, the KIDBASE medical information form can also be given to the emergency department personnel. Be sure to ask the emergency department staff to make their own copy and return the original to you.

How will my child's confidentiality be maintained?

The postcards that you send to the local coordinating EMS agency do not contain any medical information. They simply alert the agency that you are registered which lets them know that they need to ask for the form when they arrive to treat your child. Because the medical information remains with the child and is not kept or maintained by the EMS agency, your confidentiality cannot be breached. All EMS personnel strictly maintain confidentiality of medical information as they perform their duties.

Where can I get more information?

For further information, please contact McKenzie L. Cook, EMSC Program Manager at:

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* KIDBASE is a program of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Service Regulation, Office of Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Medical Services for Children Program