

*In a medical emergency complete information about your child's condition may be life saving*

Children with special health care needs are at high risk for requiring emergency medical services. They frequently have unique, complex medical histories that require specialized medical treatments. During an emergency, if paramedics and/or physicians do not have important information about your child's condition, they may not be able to provide the most appropriate care for your child.



## *Emergency Care Plan for the Special Needs Child*

In addition to the Emergency Information Card, your family needs to develop a plan for emergency medical care with the help of your doctor, school officials (nurse), teachers, caregivers, and other family members.

Developing an Emergency Care Plan could help save your child's life during an emergency.

### **Resources for developing an Emergency Care Plan:**

EMS-C National Resource Center  
111 Michigan Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC. 20010  
(202) 884-4927  
(301) 650-8045 (fax)  
(202) 884-6845 (fax)

Website:

*www.ems-c.org*  
or e-mail them at:  
*info@emscnrc.com* or  
*information@emscnrc.com*

### **Acknowledgments**

*State of California Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority*

*American Academy of Pediatrics and  
American College of Emergency Physicians.*

## **Emergency Information Card**



**Emergency Medical Information For Children with Special Health Care Needs**

# Preparing for Emergencies

The Emergency Information Card, developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics & American College of Emergency Physicians, records vital health information on children with special health care needs.



When parents provide accurate information in English about their child's medical condition, potential emergencies and current treatments, paramedics and physicians can minimize delays in treatment.

## Completing the card

Fill out each section of the card to the best of your ability. If you have questions contact your child's doctor.

**Customize the card** - Include information that is specific to your child.

- Communication difficulties** (e.g.: hearing / speech impaired, primary language - ASL, etc.)
- Treatment and/or care recommendations**
- Specialized equipment needs** (e.g.: oxygen, ventilator, hearing aids, wheelchair, etc.)

- I need help with...** (walking, eating, standing, etc.)
- I have sensitivities to...** (foods, medications, sun exposure, insect stings, etc.)
- My disability is due to...** (a head injury, a stroke, cerebral palsy, etc.)
- Other useful information that will help rescuers** (e.g.: I become confused if I am under stress, I take medication that need to be administered at specific times, I am a diabetic, etc.)

## Using the card

The Emergency Information Card is available from the Alameda County EMS Agency and local emergency departments.

The card is also available from the EMS agency website: [www.acgov.org/ems](http://www.acgov.org/ems). Click on: "Community"

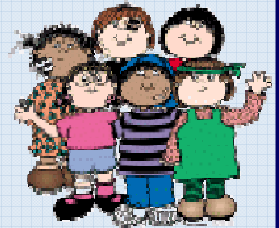
**Keep the card updated** - when changes occur or at least once a year for:

- Changes in contact information.
- Changes in your child's condition or medications.
- Changes in your child's treatment plan or physician.

## Keep the card handy

The Emergency Information Card should be kept with your child. Make copies of the card so you can have the information available when needed.

- At home, in plain site or easily found, (e.g. on refrigerator or beside the bed).
- Your child's backpack.
- Wheelchair pack
- The parents, guardian or caretakers may also want to keep a copy



This brochure and the Emergency Information Card is provided by:  
**Alameda County  
Emergency Medical Services Agency  
A Division of the Public Health Department**  
1000 San Leandro Blvd • San Leandro, CA 94577

510-618-2050 - main number  
510-618-2051 - injury prevention  
510-618-2099 - fax

website: [www.acgov.org/ems](http://www.acgov.org/ems)  
e-mail: [alcoems@acgov.org](mailto:alcoems@acgov.org)

