

# PECARN Nursing Research Priorities: Reaching Consensus Through the Delphi Method

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## PURPOSE

To determine the research priorities for nurses who work in the Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Research Network (PECARN)

Primary Objective

- To identify clinical and workforce issues using the Delphi method to build consensus among pediatric emergency nurses across the united states.

## BACKGROUND

- Nurses are integral in the design of solutions to improve healthcare<sup>1</sup>
- The Pediatric Emergency Care Applied Network (PECARN) is a Federally Funded network that provides an infrastructure for pediatric emergency departments to conduct multi-institutional research. PECARN consist of 18 hospital sites throughout US.
- Previous studies have identified emergency care priorities identified by physicians<sup>2</sup>
- To date there are no studies that identify nursing research priorities that address emergency care of pediatric patients

## METHODS

National survey using the Delphi method.

- Survey Period: October 2017 to August 2018
- Subjects: Nurses who work in a PECARN hospital
- Three rounds of surveys were disseminated by nursing leadership at PECARN sites
- Thematic analysis (round 1), Likert scoring (round 2) and Ranking (round 3) were used to analyze the data

## RESULTS

- Total 133 Nurses completed all three Rounds
- 94% (17/18) of PECARN sites participated in the survey
- Ten clinical and eight workforce priorities were identified

Final Clinical Priorities	Final Workforce Priorities
Sepsis Care: alerts, assessments, triggers, recognition	Ratio and patient outcomes: safety, errors, throughput, length of stay
Triage: accuracy, consistency, PEDS ESI, workflow and direct bedding practices	Staffing/Scheduling: nursing outcomes (health, shift, work life balance, stress and burnout)
Sepsis Care: nurse management, including door to treatment times, age related differences in treatment	Nursing satisfaction and retention
Trauma/Resuscitation: nursing care and interventions	Staffing/Scheduling: patient outcomes and patient volume
Staff Safety: violent patients, families, gun violence	Workload: patient outcomes
Mental/Behavioral Health/Psych Care: best practices, care models, patient/staff safety, violent patients	Leadership effect on nursing staff (eg satisfaction, retention)
Development of Nurse Protocols: care of specific diseases, conditions	Ratio and Nursing Care: stress, job satisfaction
Asthma Care in the ED: care models, medication, protocols	Burnout/Stress: effects on nurses
Asthma Care Home Management: discharge teaching, home management, prevention of return to the ED	
Discharge Education: effect on ED utilization, readmission rates and patient outcomes	

## CONCLUSIONS

PECARN provided an infrastructure to gain consensus from nurses on the most current priorities that researchers should focus their efforts and resources.

## IMPLICATIONS FOR NURSING PRACTICE

The results of the study will help inform further nursing research studies that address patient care and nursing practice issues for pediatric ED patients. The PECARN network may be leveraged to plan and execute multi institutional nursing research.

## REFERENCES:

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