

THE 25th Annual Update in Acute & Emergency Care Pediatrics Conference

April 17, 2026
Pigeon Forge, TN



Jointly provided by



THE 25th ANNUAL UPDATE IN Acute & Emergency Care Pediatrics Conference

OVERVIEW

The 25th Annual Update in Acute and Emergency Care Pediatrics Conference is a result of collaboration among East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Children's Hospital at Erlanger and Children's Emergency Care Alliance of Tennessee (CECA).

TARGET AUDIENCE

This conference is designed for pediatricians, nurses, emergency physicians, family practitioners, intensivists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, respiratory care practitioners, EMS professionals, fellows, residents, health care students and any others involved in the care of pediatric emergencies.

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

Michael Riker, MD

Pediatric Emergency Medicine
East Tennessee Children's Hospital

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

As a result of participating in this activity, the attendee should be able to:

- Discuss and understand emergency cases, and examine new considerations in acute and pediatric care.
- To discuss and prepare for the complications that caring for pediatric populations present in the acute setting.

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FACULTY

Carrie Dhanarajan, MA, BCBA, LBA
TN START Director, State of
Tennessee

Rebecca Bruccoleri, MD
Asst Professor of Clinical,
Emergency Medicine
Toxicology/Poison Center
Department, Vanderbilt
University Medical Center

Amy Hill, DO
Neurology - Pediatric,
East Tennessee Children's
Hospital

Jennifer Porter, BSN, RN, CPEN
Manager, CRPC Pediatric Outreach
Team, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's
Hospital at Vanderbilt

**Suzanne Rybczynski, MD, MSHCM,
FAAP**
Chief Medical Officer, East Tennessee
Children's Hospital

Cameron Sears, MD
Orthopedics, Pediatric and Orthopedic
Surgery, East Tennessee Children's
Hospital

Vanessa Thomas, MD
Emergency Medicine - Pediatric,
East Tennessee Children's Hospital

**Tracy S. White, RRT, EMT, ECMO
Specialist**
Children's Respiratory Services Clinical
Educator, Children's Hospital at
Erlanger

Regan Williams, MD, MS
Medical Director, Trauma Services,
LeBonheur Children's Hospital

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FACULTY DISCLOSURE

As a provider accredited by The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), Monore Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt must ensure balance, independence, objectivity and scientific rigor in its educational activities. Course director, planning committee, faculty and all others who are in a position to control the content of this educational activity are required to disclose all relationships with ineligible companies. Safeguards against commercial bias have been put in place. Faculty will also disclose any off-label and/or investigational use of pharmaceuticals or instruments discussed in their presentation. Disclosure of these financial relationships or absence of relevant financial relationships will be disclosed to the audience.

COURSE ALTERATIONS

The office of CNE reserves the right to change topics/speakers if necessary.

CREDIT

Application for CNE credit has been submitted to the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC). Credits are anticipated but not guaranteed.

The CECA Pediatric Emergency Medicine (PEM) Conference has been approved by the Tennessee Office of EMS for 7 hours of in-person Pediatric Continuing Education contact hours. These hours are eligible to be applied toward the Tennessee EMS Training stipend requirements for licensed EMS providers.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Registration fees will be refunded less a \$50.00 administrative fee for cancellations received in writing a minimum of 14 days prior to the activity date. No refunds will be given when the registration fee is \$50.00 or less, or when a cancellation request is received less than 14 days prior to the start of the activity. Children's Emergency Care Alliance reserves the right to alter, reschedule or cancel this program. If an activity is cancelled, then a full refund of registration fees will be given.

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HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

DreamMore Resort & Spa - 2525 DreamMore Way, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863

Built around the rich traditions of storytelling, family and togetherness, Dollywood's DreamMore Resort and Spa is just minutes from Dollywood's award-winning theme parks. This hotel in Pigeon Forge near Gatlinburg upholds the spirit of the South in a fresh new way, as it can only be imagined by Dolly and Dollywood.



REGISTRATION: In-Person & Virtual

Online registration is available at <https://cecatn.org/2026-conference/>

Fees per Specialty	
Physicians, PAs, and APNs	\$185
Nurses	\$125
Fellows/Residents	\$120
Allied Health*	\$120
EMS Providers	\$100
Non-Licensed Students**	\$85

* Examples include RRT, MHA, PT, OT, etc. If you are unsure of your registration type, **please contact (615-875-4397) for assistance.**

** Student fee includes medical, nursing, APN, PA and EMS students from any university/college with no prior certification.

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Conference Agenda

7:45 a.m. - 8:20 a.m. EST	Check-in/Breakfast	
8:20 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. EST	Welcome and Opening Remarks	
8:30 a.m. – 9:25 a.m. EST	Regan Williams, MD, MS Pediatric Trauma across Tennessee	
9:30 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. EST	Amy Hill DO Seizure Recognition and Acute Management	
10:25 a.m. – 10:45 p.m. EST	Vendor Break	
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. EST	Suzanne Rybczynski, MD, MSHCM, FAAP Pediatric Suicide Risk Screening in Emergency Departments and Beyond	Jennifer Porter, BSN, RN, CPEN Sign here: A guide to pediatric refusal risks and practices
11:35 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST	Rebecca Bruccoleri, MD The Many Hats of the Tennessee Poison Center	
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m. EST	Lunch and Vendor Networking	
1:20 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. EST	Carrie Dhanarajan, MA, BCBA, LBA Autism Centered Care: Recognizing and Responding with Compassion	
2:20 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. EST	Vanessa Thomas, MD Sepsis in Children: Spotting the Signs, Saving the Future	Cameron Sears, MD Orthopedic Injuries: When to Worry...or Not
3:05 p.m. – 3:25 p.m. EST	Vendor Break/Snack	
3:25 p.m. – 4:20 p.m. EST	Tracy S. White, RRT, EMT, ECMO Specialist "Calm Under Pressure": When to Worry and What to do!	
4:25 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST	Closing Remarks	