

Emergency Care for Kids

By Shaleek Wilson



Dr. James Pierog
CHOC Emergency Medicine
Specialist

Dr. Pierog is the medical director of emergency medical services at CHOC Children's. He completed his internship in internal medicine and his residency in emergency medicine at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles County Medical Center. He served in the United States Army, achieving the rank of Captain as a General Medical Officer.

Dr. Pierog's philosophy of care: "Giving cutting-edge care to the children of Orange County. To, protect, nurture, and develop them in an optimal setting."

EDUCATION:

University of California, Los Angeles
Medical School

BOARD CERTIFICATIONS:

Emergency Medicine and Pediatric
Emergency Medicine

CAREFUL CARE

When it comes to children, a level of unique and specialized care is necessary. "There are a number of considerations in children you have to focus on, whether dealing with an infant, a neonate (less than 28 days old), a child or an adolescent," says Dr. Pierog. "There are many different features that are obvious, as well as those from a physiological standpoint that determine how their systems function," says Dr. Pierog.

UNIQUE NEEDS

"Kids are much more prone to have facial and intracranial (brain) injuries than adults because of their larger head-to-body size. Because of their propensity to fall, we see a higher number of upper extremity injuries such as wrist and elbow fractures," says Dr. Pierog. In addition, because they have a higher hydration requirements, children need two to three times as much fluid than do adults.



EMERGENCY ROOM ETIQUETTE

"Children require special treatment, not just for their size, but also when it comes to the equipment needed to treat their conditions," says Dr. Pierog. CHOC's emergency department has all the bases covered, including master's prepared child-life specialists who are trained to understand and treat the emotional and physiological needs of little ones. "There are a number of features that pediatric emergency physicians are aware of and prepared to treat, including respiratory, gastrointestinal, and environmental conditions, such as pesticide exposure from children putting items in their mouths."

HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

For adults, medication dispensing is generalized, but not for children. To ensure parents are giving the right amount, pay attention to the levels. "The dosages of common medications are going to be on a weight-based formula," says Dr. Pierog.

2 to 4

AVERAGE NUMBER OF
COLDS ADOLESCENTS
GET EACH YEAR



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90%

DECREASE IN CHILDRENS
ILLNESSES BECAUSE OF
VACCINATION USE

25%

AMOUNT OF BODY FLUIDS
CHILDREN TURN OVER

