

Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Center (PPECC) Frequently Asked Questions

Is this like a daycare center?

- PPECCs are very similar to daycare centers except they are staffed with nursing personnel and therapists to accommodate the level of acuity in caring for a child with medical needs.

How does a person get enrolled into a PPECC?

- Each admitted individual must have a signed Plan of Care that has been completed by the patient's parents (if under the age of 18), the Administrator or Director of Nursing at the PPECC, and the patient's physician. Typically, the process can take about 2 weeks, but some cases can be expedited if the need arises.

Do PPECCs replace school for school-aged children?

- No. PPECCs are not equipped to serve in the place of education. However, if a patient is of school age and medically fragile, the Texas Education Agency may allow enrollment into the General Education Homebound (GEH) Program that only mandates a minimum of 4 hours of curriculum each week. The remainder of the time may be spent at the PPECC for medical necessities. Please see the GEH Program requirements.

Do PPECCs take insurance?

- PPECCs primarily take Medicaid-based insurances from many different service providers. Some private insurances may also authorize PPECC services but would need to be pre-authorized beforehand.

Do PPECCs have transportation services?

- PPECCs do typically provide transportation to and from the center for patients.

What happens during the day at a PPECC?

- Every morning patients are assigned to a group with their nurse for the day. Patients are provided nutrition and receive morning medications, undergo their nursing assessment, and any hygiene activities needed. Nurses will have reviewed each patient's procedures list and schedule each procedure to be completed during the day. Patients will participate in arts, crafts, and

games to aid in advancing their development. Therapy visits may also occur during the day if therapy services are a part of their Plan of Care. Patients will eat or receive their nutritional needs as prescribed throughout the day and provided quiet time for napping or relaxation. At the end of the day, patients are retrieved by their parents either by provided transportation or by pick-up.

Do PPECCs provide meals?

- PPECCs who provide meals must have a dietician in house to coordinate meal preparation. If there are no in-house dieticians with a health-grade kitchen, then PPECCs may not provide meals or prepare food for patients admitted to their services. Thus, nutritional needs and meals must be sent with the patient daily for consumption.

What kind of therapies are provided at a PPECC?

- PPECCs may contract with respiratory, occupational, physical, and speech therapy companies of the patient's/guardian's choice to provide services at the center while the patient is attending. PPECCs also contract social workers and a dietitian for consultation on each child.

Do PPECCs have a doctor in-house?

- PPECCs do not normally staff a physician in-house but do have one contracted on stand-by for emergencies. However, all abnormal findings outside of each patient's "normal" will be reported to their admitting physician.

What happens if a patient becomes ill while at the PPECC?

- Upon admission, the Administrator or Director of Nursing will review with the parents/guardian of all criteria in which a patient may not attend the center while experiencing illness. The same criteria will also apply to patients who become ill during the day while at the PPECC. The nursing staff will notify the parent and the patient's admitting physician and move him/her to the isolation room. The isolation room is used to ensure infectious disease does not become endemic within the facility. Parents/guardians will be asked to pick-up the patient and in most cases asked to have their physician see them before returning to the PPECC.