

## 2026 Setting the Pace

### Speaker Information Form



**Adam Oplinger BS, RN, CEN, TCRN**

Adam Oplinger has over 30 years of experience in healthcare, beginning as an EMT in 1990 and advancing to paramedic in 1996. He spent 15 years in critical care transport as a flight paramedic and nurse. In 2012, Adam completed the accelerated nursing program at the University of Rochester School of Nursing and began his nursing career in a pediatric cardiac ICU. Later he served as a pediatric critical care transport nurse and coordinator of the Pediatric Transport Team. He has also served as the Pediatric Trauma Program manager at UR Medicine's Kessler Trauma Center. He is now the Director of Clinical Operations at Mercy Flight Central, and he holds dual bachelor's degrees in nursing and organizational management.

### 2026 NYSENA Setting the Pace Conference Presentation

#### The Injured Child in a Resource-Limited Setting

**The injured child presents one of the most high-stakes challenges in emergency care—especially when resources are limited.** This session focuses on practical, evidence-informed strategies for the initial assessment, stabilization, and decision-making of pediatric trauma patients in rural, community, and resource-constrained settings. Attendees will explore how to overcome pediatric trauma situations when ideal tools, staffing, or specialty support are not immediately available—while still delivering safe, decisive, and compassionate care. The goal: helping clinicians feel more confident when it matters most, even when conditions are far from perfect.

## **Learning Objectives.**

1. Describe the importance of preparation for pediatric trauma in the rural, community or resource-limited emergency department setting.
2. Describe the role of the Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinator in the non-children's hospital emergency department.
3. Review strategies for improving time to transfer to a pediatric trauma center.
4. Review the initial evaluation and stabilization of the injured child.

## **References.**

1. American College of Surgeons. (2015) *Rural Trauma Team Development Course* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). American College of Surgeons.
2. American College of Surgeons. (2018). *Advanced trauma life support student course manual* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). American College of Surgeons.
3. Remick K, Gausche-Hill M, Joseph MM, et al; AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Section on Surgery, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS Pediatric Emergency Medicine Committee, EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION Pediatric Committee. Pediatric Readiness in the Emergency Department. *Pediatrics*. 2018;142(5):e20182459
4. Cunningham RM, Walton MA, Carter PM. The Major Causes of Death in Children and Adolescents in the United States. *N Engl J Med*. 2018 Dec 20;379(25):2468-2475. doi: 10.1056/NEJMSr1804754. PMID: 30575483; PMCID: PMC6637963.