

# Recommendations for Implementing Pediatric Psychosocial Care

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# Progress and Potential



Pediatric psychosocial care has advanced globally, yet numerous opportunities remain to adopt best practices as healthcare systems continue to evolve and advance.

# Recommendations

Advancement of PCC globally will require:

- Education and training
- Financial support and advocacy
- Changes to the healthcare environment
- Research and audits



# What are the main education and training needs?

Around the world, there is a need for:

- Focused degree programs and continuing education
- Establishing educational and training requirements related to licensure and professional identification
- Well-defined and comprehensive training curriculums for healthcare providers





# What topics should be addressed in trainings?

Critical topics relevant to PPC include:

- Impacts of hospitalization
- Age appropriate care and communication
- Play in clinical settings/normalization
- Optimizing quality of life
- Psychological preparation/coping
- Non-pharmacological pain management
- Family-centered care





# The Healthcare Environment

How can we create spaces that promote adaptation and QoL?

- Create colorful and engaging spaces that are appropriate for children of all ages and abilities.





# The Healthcare Environment

How can we create spaces that promote adaptation and QoL?

- Use medical equipment that enables easy implementation of best practices in PPC



Example of comfort positioning during blood draw

# Financial Support

Financial concerns can affect the provision of high quality PPC.

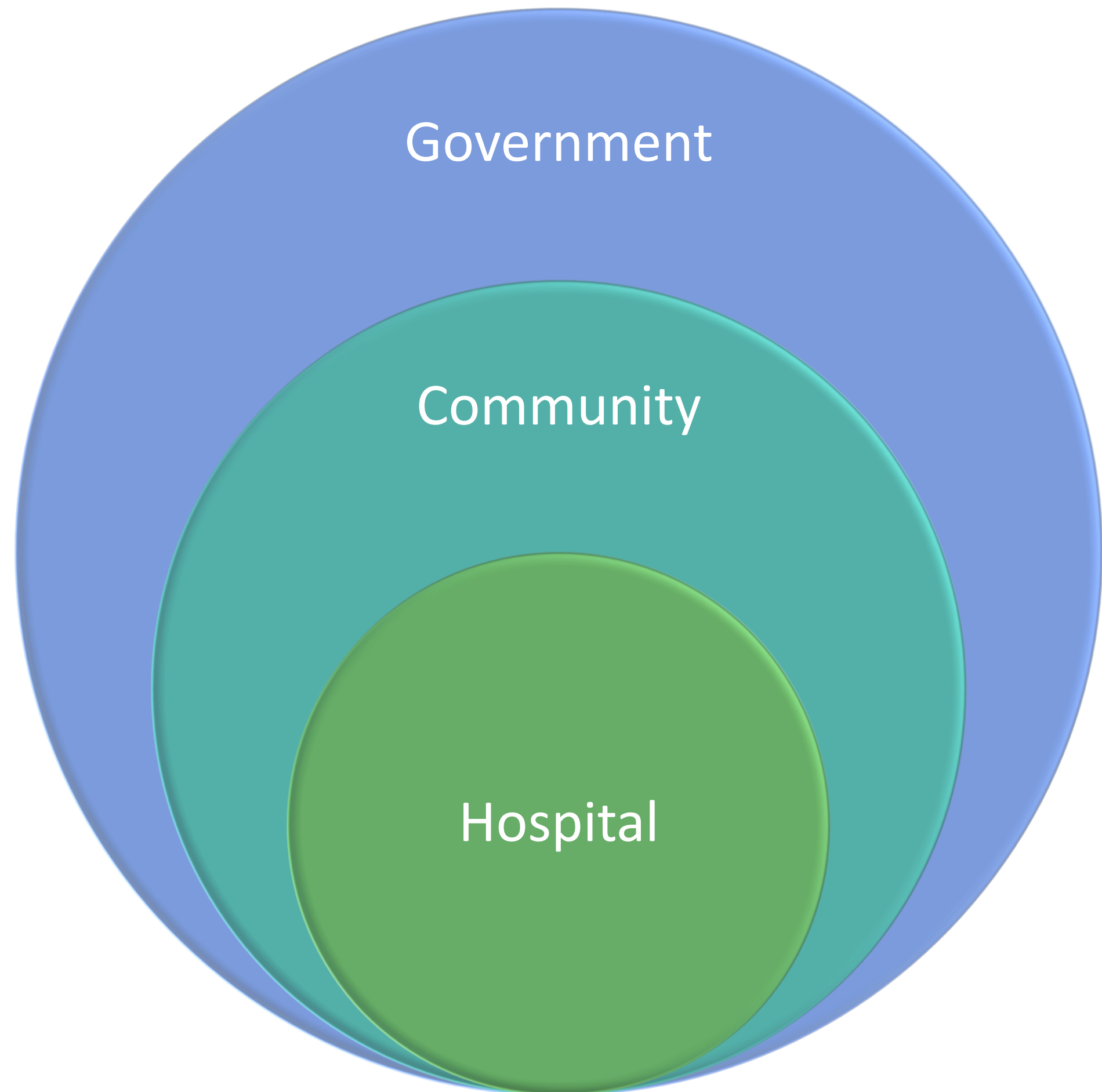
- PPC services and staff expenses should be included within hospital operating budgets
- Funding must be sufficient to support adequate staff-to-patient ratios
  - Patients with more complex needs will require greater staff support





# Advocacy

To cultivate awareness of the importance of PPC pediatric to a broad audience, advocacy should occur at many levels:



# Research and Audits

*A major gap that limits the growth of PPC globally.*

- Research related to PPC practices and its impacts is critically needed to provide evidence and justification for changes in healthcare policies and practices.
- Research within diverse cultural contexts will help to establish the benefits PPC and provide a strong rationale for program development, sustainability, and growth.





# Future Research Directions

Key questions to answer for advancement of PPC include:

- What are the effects of PPC practices on:
  - patient and parent psychosocial outcomes and experiences?
  - children's physical health and treatment outcomes?
  - patient and family experiences and satisfaction with healthcare?
- What are the patient-staff ratios required to achieve positive impacts of PPC?
- Is PPC cost-effective?



# Enabling Research to Advance PPC

Three essential components:

- Adequate funding and instrumental support
  - Ideally, research is supported financially and instrumentally by healthcare organizations, medical training programs and academic institutions, private foundations, and governmental agencies.
- Attention to rigor and reproducibility in research
- Dissemination of findings





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