

Safe Transport of Patients-Expanding statewide

What is it? Quality Project – data collection to determine how patients are restrained during EMS transport and by which services.

Why are we doing this? Many pediatric patients are being inappropriately restrained during EMS transport. The goal is to determine what EMS providers may need education or resources.

How is this being done? QR code – REDCap survey link is posted at charge nurse desk and in the physician's area. If you see a patient who was transported while restrained inappropriately, please fill out a survey (it takes less than a minute!)



****Please complete this survey for patients who are inappropriately restrained****

- Infant carrier strapped directly to stretcher
- Child transported in the arms of adult/caregiver
- Child <36 kg strapped to stretcher without the use of restraint device (Pedi-Mate, Neo-Mate, adjustable straps)



Safe Transportation of Children

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Background

- ~13% of all EMS transports are pediatric patients ages 0-13
- Ambulance stretchers are designed for adult patients and are incompatible with child transport without additional equipment.



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) created a workgroup to address the safe transport of children in ground ambulances, and in 2012 published a document with best-practice recommendations.



Types of Approved Restraint Systems

1. Convertible Car Seat** – has 2 belt paths
2. Commercial devices
 - EMS marketed restraint device (ex: Ferno Pedi-Mate, SafeGuard Transport)
 - Device that safely fastens newborn to mother (ex: Aegis, Kangoofix)
 - Color coded straps adaptable to any stretcher (ex: Emergency Child Restraint)
3. Car bed – has 2 belt paths, made for infants who must lie flat
4. Commercial Isolette/Incubator

** Car seats that are non-convertible (infant carrier seat, one belt path) should NOT be used to restrain a child in a ground ambulance.

Safety Considerations

- Infants must ALWAYS be transported in an appropriate child restraint system.
- It is NEVER acceptable to transport a child in the arms of an adult.
- It is NOT appropriate to transport children, even in a child restraint system, on the multi-occupant squad bench located in the rear of ground ambulances.
- Do NOT use a rear-facing-only seat in the rear-facing captain's chair.
- ALL passengers (parents, caregivers, EMS personnel) should be restrained during transport.
- Familiarize yourself with your organization's pediatric restraint systems.

Use of Patient's Seat After an MVC

A child's own safety seat may be used for transport to the hospital after a "minor" crash only if ALL of the following apply:

- It is a convertible seat (2 belt paths).
- Visual inspection does not include any cracks or deformation.
- The vehicle door closest to child safety seat was not damaged.
- The air bags did not deploy.
- The vehicle was able to be driven away from the crash site.
- There were no injuries to the vehicle occupants.

