

# Safe Transport of Patients-Expanding statewide

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**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

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- ~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

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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

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- 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

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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.