

Safe Transportation of Children

GCTE Pediatric Subcommittee



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.

Appropriate Safe Transport Devices



Convertible Car seat



Pedi-Mate



KangooFix Neonatal Restraint



Emergency Child Restraint



Hope Car bed



Commercial isolette/incubator

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.

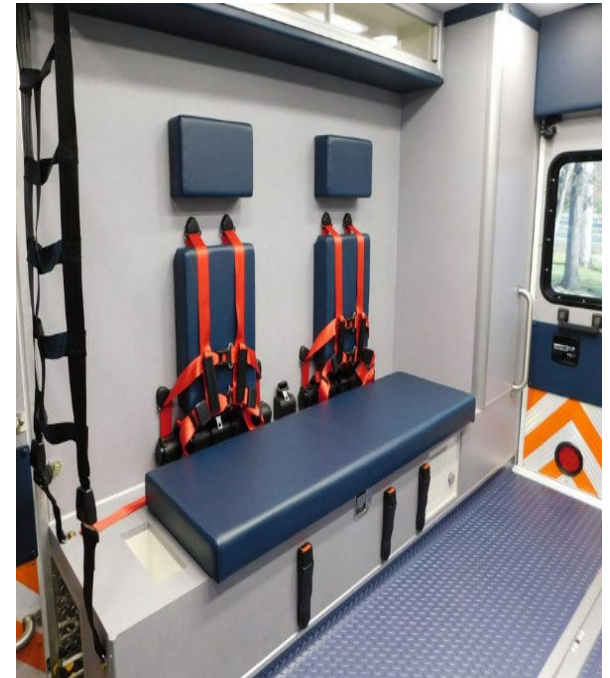
Inappropriate Transport Devices



Caregiver arms



Infant carrier



Multi-occupant squad bench



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.