

PEDIATRIC PATIENT TRANSPORT

Purpose

- To provide guidance regarding the safe transport of the pediatric patient in an ambulance

General Information

- Transportation of a child in any of the following ways is not permissible:
 - Unrestrained
 - On a parent/caregiver's lap or held in their arms
 - Using only horizontal stretcher straps if the child cannot be properly restrained according to the stretcher manufacturer's specifications for proper restraint of patients
 - On the bench seat or any seat perpendicular to the forward motion of the vehicle
- "Car seat" refers to a size appropriate car seat which has rear and/or forward facing belt paths and which have been secured appropriately
- "CRS" refers to a child restraint system designed specifically for ambulance stretcher use and which has been properly secured

- The child's age and weight shall be considered when utilizing an appropriate restraint system
- Use of child's own car seat is only permitted for one of the following (children <2 years must be rear facing):
 - The child is not a patient and is being transported with the parent or caregiver who is a patient
 - No other restraint systems are available
 - Minor vehicle crash (ie: "fender bender")
- The child shall be secured by harness at all times. Whenever possible, procedures should be performed around the harness straps
- A CRS is not required if the patient is longer than the length based tape

Transportation of a child requiring monitoring or interventions

- Preferred: Transport using a CRS
- Alternative: With the child's head at the top of the stretcher, secure the child to the stretcher with three horizontal straps and one vertical strap across each shoulder

Transportation of a child requiring cervical spinal immobilization, spinal motion restriction, or lying flat

- Preferred: Use CRS. When appropriate, use cervical collar and secure child to stretcher

Transportation of a child who is not a patient

- Consider delaying transport until additional vehicles are available if it will not compromise other patient care or transport
- Preferred: Transport child in a vehicle other than an ambulance using a car seat
- Preferred alternative: Transport child using the rear-facing EMS provider captain's chair built-in child restraint
- Alternative: Transport child in a car seat in the front passenger seat of the ambulance with the airbags off

Transportation of a child or children requiring transport as part of a multiple patient transport (newborn with mother, multiple children, etc)

- Preferred: If possible, transport each as a single child according to guidance above. Additional resources may be necessary
- Preferred for mother and newborn: Transport the newborn in a newborn transport wrap (i.e., Aegis Neonate wrap)
- Alternative for mother and newborn: Transport the newborn in a CRS secured appropriately to stretcher. Transport mother in rear-facing EMS provider captain's chair if mother is medically stable. Consider the use of additional units to accomplish safe transport