



Safe Transport of Pediatric Patients

PURPOSE

To identify the “best practice” for ambulance transportation of ill or injured pediatric patients. Ambulances are **NOT EXEMPT** from state child safety laws.

POLICY

Safety measures should be used to provide safe transport for all patients.

PROCEDURE

- Drive cautiously and at safe speeds, observing applicable traffic laws.
- Attempt to arrange for transportation of adults and children who are not patients by alternative means.
- Secure all monitoring devices and other equipment to prevent injury.
- Ensure pediatric patients under 40 kg (88 lbs) are restrained with approved child restraint devices secured per the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Ensure that all EMS providers use available restraining devices or systems during transport.
- For pediatric patients having medical conditions aggravated by stress, make every reasonable attempt to maximize safety while comforting the child.
- **DO NOT** allow parents, caregivers or any passenger to be unrestrained during transport.
- **DO NOT** hold, attempt to hold, or permit parents or caregivers to hold the patient during transport; parents or caregivers should be secured using safety belts.
- Infants and children meeting Trauma Triage criteria should be transported in a child restraint device unless requiring relocation to or placement on an immobilization device.