

General Approach to Safety Restraining Devices

Applies to adult and pediatric patients

CRITERIA

This general approach guidance document is intended to provide a standardized framework for patient transport. Follow common sense, apply good clinical judgment, and follow regionally approved policies and procedures.

CFR AND ALL PROVIDER LEVELS

EMT

All passengers including patients and EMS personnel should be restrained

- It is not permissible or safe to have a parent or caregiver hold a child in his or her arms or lap. The child and parent/caregiver should *each* be restrained appropriately
- All patients on the stretcher must be secured when the vehicle is in motion or the stretcher is being carried or moved; stretcher harness straps should always be used
- A child's own safety seat – when available and intact – can be used to restrain a child during transport. He or she should be placed in the device and the device should be belted to an ambulance seat. If the child is the patient, the seat should be secured onto the stretcher and the child belted in the child safety seat
- If the ambulance service does not have an ambulance equipped with child safety seats or restraint, it is recommended that the agency purchase approved child safety seat(s) or restraint(s) for each ambulance. More than one size seat/restraint may be needed as location of the restraint (i.e., stretcher, or captain's chair) may not accommodate all size children
- Agencies should routinely train EMS personnel in the use of various child safety seats/restraints available and have a policy for how injured and uninjured children will be transported
- As an agency considers the purchase of new vehicles, or is retrofitting current vehicles, design considerations, such as integrated child restraints, should be considered
- All safety seats/restraints should be used according to manufacturer's recommendations

KEY POINTS/CONSIDERATIONS

- If a patient chooses to refuse safety restraints, please refer to "Resources: Refusal of Medical Attention" protocol, as well as agency and regional policy