

Safe Pediatric Transports

Guideline #1

Use restraint systems designed for pediatric ambulance transport, or if not available, use convertible child safety seats designed for automotive transport for children weighing up to 40 pounds. (*Note: NC EMS and Trauma Rules for 2009 require availability of a pediatric transport restraint device for children up to 40 lbs. revised from 20 lbs.*)

Guideline #1A

If using a convertible child safety seat:

For children weighing less than 40 lbs., install seat rear facing on the gurney with the backrest raised to a 45 degree angle. (Follow manufacturer's guidelines for rear-facing weight limit.) The child safety seat must be secured to the gurney with straps routed through two (2) belt paths as illustrated below.



Helpful Tip

Refer to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) web site for ease of use ratings for child safety seats to make informed decisions on purchases at www.nhtsa.gov.

Safe Pediatric Transports

Guideline #2 - Patients Over 40 lbs

For pediatric patients weighing over 40 lbs, use a transport restraint device designed to be used rear facing for children weighing over 40 lbs, if available. Install it rear facing on the gurney with backrest raised to a 45 degree angle as pictured below.



If such a device is not available, secure the child to the gurney as you would an adult.

Guideline #3 - Using the Captain's Chair

If the gurney is being used for another patient and you need to transport a sick or injured child that you've determined can be transported in a sitting position, you may secure the child to the Captain's chair in a convertible child safety seat if the child weighs less than 40 lbs. Check manufacturer's guidelines for weight limit.

IMPORTANT: The Captain's Chair must be stationary/not able to swivel!

If the Captain's Chair has an integrated child safety seat, you may secure the child following manufacturer's guidelines.

When replacing the Captain's Chair, consider one that has an integrated child safety seat and that can be secured to be stationary/not able to swivel.



Safe Pediatric Transports

Guideline #4 - Non-patients

Children who are *not* patients but need to be transported, should be properly restrained in another vehicle. However, since this is not always possible, the following guidelines have been developed.

Guideline #4A - Child < 20 lbs

If child is less than 1 year old OR weighs less than 20 lbs., he *must* be transported in a rear facing child safety seat secured to the front passenger seat of the cab.

IMPORTANT: Make sure passenger side air bag is turned off!

Guideline #4B - Child > 20 lbs

If a child weighs over 20 lbs., he *must* be restrained in a forward facing weight appropriate child safety seat secured either in a stationary Captain's Chair OR in the front passenger seat.

IMPORTANT: Make sure passenger side air bag is turned off if child is secured in front seat.

Important Points to Remember! _____

NEVER transport a child in a child safety seat secured to the bench seat or CPR seat.

NEVER allow the parent, caregiver, or EMT to hold the child or infant in their arms or on their lap during transport! Child safety is more important than what may be comforting to the child.

ALWAYS secure all monitoring devices and other equipment so that passengers in the cab portion of the ambulance do not get injured or killed by unsecured equipment during a crash.

ALWAYS encourage the use of the DOT NHTSA Emergency Vehicle Operating Course (EVOC), National Standard Curriculum or other nationally-recognized course.

ALWAYS make sure that available restraint systems are used by EMTs, patients, parents or caregivers, and any other occupants.

