



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

Approved by: Will Smith, MD, Medical Director

Approved by: Willy Watsabaugh, Chief

Title: **Procedure Guidelines:
Pediatric Transport Guidelines**

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Pediatric Transport Guidelines (Procedure Guidelines)

PURPOSE:

These guidelines apply to every EMS response resulting in the need to transport pediatric patients who are of an age/weight that require the use of a child safety seat from the scene of an emergency.

These guidelines offer recommendations, as published by NHTSA, for the transportation of children in five different possible situations:

1. Child who is not injured or ill.
2. Child who is ill and/or injured and whose condition *does not* require continuous and/or intensive medical monitoring or intervention.
3. Ill or injured child who *does* require continuous and/or intensive monitoring or intervention.
4. Child whose condition requires spinal motion restriction and/or lying flat.
5. Child or children who require transport as part of a multiple patient transport (newborn with mother, multiple children, etc.).

These guidelines do not comprehensively cover all possible situations and EMS practitioner judgment should be used if a situation is presented that is not addressed below.

GUIDELINE:

1. The child's age and weight shall be considered when determining an appropriate restraint system.
2. When possible, and with the exception of a minor vehicle crash, avoid transporting children in their own safety seats if the seat was involved in a motor vehicle crash. Use of the child's own seat can be considered if no other restraint systems are available and the seat shows no visible damage/defect.
3. Transportation of a child in any of the following ways is not appropriate:
 - a. Unrestrained
 - b. On a parent/guardian/other caregiver's lap or held in their arms
 - c. Using only horizontal stretcher straps, if the child does not fit according to cot manufacturer's specifications for proper restraint of patients
 - d. On the bench seat or any seat perpendicular to the forward motion of the vehicle.

Pediatric Transport Situation Guidelines

Ideal transport method is **highlighted in yellow**, with acceptable alternatives listed if ideal is not achievable

Uninjured/ not ill	Transport <u>in a vehicle other than an ambulance</u> using a properly-installed, size appropriate child restraint system.	Transport in a size-appropriate child seat installed in the front passenger seat with the airbags off or in another forward-facing seat.	Transport in a size-appropriate child seat on the rear-facing provider's seat.	Consider delaying the transport until additional vehicles are available.
Ill / Injured				
<u>Not</u> requiring continuous monitoring or interventions	Transport in a size-appropriate child restraint system secured appropriately on the cot.	Transport in the provider's seat in a size-appropriate restraint system.	Transport on the cot using three horizontal straps, vertical restraints across each shoulder.	
<u>Requiring</u> continuous intensive monitoring or intervention.		With the head at the top of the cot, secure to the cot with three horizontal straps and a vertical strap across each shoulder.		
Requiring spinal motion restriction or lying flat	Secure to a size-appropriate spine device and secure it to the cot, head first, with a tether at the foot (if possible) to prevent forward movement, and with three horizontal restraints and a vertical restraint across each shoulder.	Secure to a standard spine device with padding added as needed and secure using the strap configuration listed above.		
Multiple patient transport (newborn with mother, multiple children, etc.)	If possible, transport each as a single patient utilizing additional units. For mother and newborn, transport the newborn in a size-appropriate restraint system in the rear-facing provider seat with a belt-path that prevents both lateral and forward movement, leaving the cot for the mother.	Non-patient children should be transported in non-EMS vehicles, if possible.	When available resources prevent meeting the criteria above, transport using space available in a non-emergency mode, exercising extreme caution and driving at a reduced speed.	Note: Even with childbirth in the field, it is not appropriate to transport a child held in the parent/guardian/caregiver's arms or on a lap.