

South Metro Fire Department
Clinical Policies and Procedures

Title: Pediatric Patient Transports
Effective Date: December 15, 2015
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Standard: Patient Care and Transport
Policy: It is the policy of South Metro Fire to ensure a safe environment for all patients while being transported in an ambulance. EMTs and Paramedics will take specific steps in the transport of pediatric patients by utilizing approved equipment to provide a safe transport.

I. Purpose

This policy defines how pediatric patients should be transported to ensure safety.

II. Definition

None

III. Procedure

A. Appropriate Restraint Devices

1. Pedi-mate

- a. Children between 10-40 lbs. (4.5-18 kg) may be restrained to the cot via the Pedi-mate.
- b. The Pedi-mate shall be secured to the stretcher using the appropriate attached buckles.
- c. The head of stretcher should be elevated 30-45 degrees to allow patient to look around without straining and provide comfort without compromising airway patency.
- d. **Exception:** If the child does not fit in Pedi-mate, then the child shall be secured using standard stretcher restraints (see Patient Safety Restraint policy 9.18).

2. Patient Car Seat

- a. Infants and children may be transported in their own car seat provided the car seat has not sustained any damage from a motor vehicle accident.
- b. Car seat must be appropriately secured to the cot using safety straps as appropriate.

3. Neonatal Isolette

- a. Neonatal infants (birth – one month or as defined by the OMD) being transported between hospitals should be transported in an isolette that can provide patient restraint and thermoregulation.

- b. Generally, neonatal transports will have an accompanying NICU team to provide appropriate patient care.

4. Baby Pod

- a. Infants 4.4-17.6 lbs. (2-8kg) that are not being transported by a NICU team should, when transported between hospitals, be transported in the Baby Pod for thermoregulation and patient restraint.

B. Exceptions

1. Any unstable pediatric patient transported in the 911 setting may be transported affixed securely to the stretcher in the supine position with appropriate padding to fill the voids between the mechanical safety restraints and the patient.
2. Pediatric patients (> one month) or as defined by the OMD will not be transported in the arms of their parent or guardian.
3. Newborn infants may be transported in the arms of the mother providing the following conditions are met:
 - a. Mother and newborn are stable
 - b. Code 2 (non-lights & sirens) mode of transport
 - c. In the event the mother or newborn are unstable, a second ambulance should be requested, if available, to transport mother and newborn separately.

Previous Versions: 10/13