

Child Passenger Safety in Ambulances

When medical care teams are taking care of children, they don't think of them as "little adults". The medication doses are different, the size and type of equipment is different and many of the treatment modalities differ as children and youth's bodies respond differently than that of an adult.


Providing age-appropriate care is important in all phases of the medical treatment, including in the ambulance. That means that children should be properly restrained on an ambulance cot with equipment other than what is made for the adult-sized bodies. There are many types of ambulance restraint systems on the market and knowing what is available, how to use it and where to obtain child-sized ambulance restraint systems was included in the training offered in April by Safe Kids Grand Forks.

In 2012, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration released their ambulance transport recommendations that were developed by an expert panel in this industry. That report has been out for over twelve years and our hope is that ambulance departments in the region are complying with the recommendations contained in it, so that we can assure that children and youth being transported are being done so safely.

Carma Hanson, MS, RN and a certified child passenger safety technician with over twenty-five years of ambulance transport experience at Altru Health System, provided two online training sessions this spring for ambulance services. The training was recorded and is available for ambulance services to watch in an effort to learn about the standards and how to be compliant with them. If you are interested in obtaining a link to that recording for your individual or ambulance service viewing, please reach out to Carma at chanson@altru.org. She is also available to assist with ambulance / rig specific questions you may have in your effort to enhance the care and safe transportation of children in your vehicles. This training is also available for CEU's for certified child passenger safety technicians that may want to learn more about child passenger safety in this type of transport environment.

For questions or more information, you can reach Carma Hanson at chanson@altru.org or 701.739.1591.

**IMPROVING OCCUPANT
PROTECTION FOR
CHILDREN IN AMBULANCES**



A Training for
EMS Personnel

