



NASEMSO Safe Transport of Children (STC) Committee

MEETING RECORD

August 25, 2022
1:30 PM EDT

Attending – Eric Hicken (Chair-NJ), Katherine Schafer (Vice Chair-NM), Samantha Mishra (MI), Katrina Altenhofen, David Edwards (VA), Anna Sessa (NH), Amanda Perry (LA), Jaime Bartell (SD), Jason Hamm (First Line Technology), Patrick Wilson (EMS Solutions), Renee Escamilla (AK), Jim Green (Intrepid Solutions), Rachael Ford (OR), Stefanie Zucker (Pediatric Medical), Megan Petrucelli (CT), John McDonald (GSA), Amy Haughn (Nationwide Children’s), Melissa Dobbs (IMMI), Kjelsey Polzin (MN), Dave Bryson (NHTSA), Karter Kistler (EVS), Cyndy Wright-Johnson (MD)
For NASEMSO: Mary Hedges, Lynn Dommel, Adrienne Wilson, Dia Gainor

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions – Eric Hicken, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

Review and Approve June 22nd Meeting Record (attached)– The June 22nd meeting record was approved as submitted. Motion by Katherine Schafer, Seconded by Amanda Perry.

Pediatric Transport Products for Ground Ambulances, Revised 2022 Draft
<https://nasemso.org/wp-content/uploads/Pediatric-Transport-Products-for-Ground-Ambulances.pdf>

Eric Hicken referenced the revised draft spreadsheet. Mary Hedges explained that to update it she sent emails to the manufacturers requesting them to review the 2020 list and determine if there were any changes in their products. Rachael Alter incorporated those changes in the spreadsheet and created a change log that shows the modifications that were made to this version, most of which were requested by the manufacturer. The convertible car seats and Dreamride car bed (previously on a separate page, described as not marketed for ambulances) were removed because they are not intended for ambulances. Eric asked for discussion on the AEGIS baby wrap, as several people have expressed concern about this product and if it is safe for infant restraint during ambulance transport. Eric noted the following concerns:

- AEGIS baby wrap does not attach to the cot but only attaches to the adult wearing it. All other products on the list have mechanisms to securely attach to the cot or other fixture.

- For the adult to wear the AEGIS wrap containing the infant, the cot restraints must be placed in a manner that no longer meets the requirements to properly secure the adult on the cot (referenced in SAE J3027).
- AEGIS does not utilize a 5-point harness, a basic requirement in *NHTSA's 2012 Working Group Best-Practice Recommendations for the Safe Transportation of Children in Emergency Ground Ambulances*¹

Katrina and Samantha commented that if we were to remove the product, we would be imposing criteria, whereas the disclaimers state there are no criteria for products included on the list. Samantha asked if it is time to pick "some criteria" based on evidence, to begin to wean this product list down? It was suggested adding the criteria that the device must attach to the cot. It appears that a similar product, Ferno's Kangoofix, attaches to the cot or to restraints that are attached to the cot, and it also utilizes a 5-point restraint system for both mother and infant. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHOYLPtNWss>

Regarding the SAE J3027 standard for cots, Jim Green noted that it appears that when using the AEGIS wrap, the shoulder restraints on the adult patient must be moved wide on the shoulders, which has not been tested, but would appear to allow the adult to shoot through the straps. He added that properly restraining the patient on the cot was a challenge when conducting the tests to develop this standard. Cyndy added her concern that it may increase the risk of clavicular fracture. See <https://saplacor.com/pages/ambulance-transport>.

Stefanie Zucker pointed out that while we currently have no requirements for inclusion on the list, we can determine what criteria to use (and change the disclaimer). Patrick Wilson agreed and added there are poorly made knock off products being marketed.

Mary Hedges suggested that criteria we may want to consider is that products must minimally meet the criteria described in the *2012 NHTSA Best Practices on the Safe Transport of Children in Emergency Ground Ambulances*, e.g., the 5-point restraint system.

Jim Green added that another option would be to eliminate the list altogether.

ACTION: No action was taken on the Draft Revised Pediatric Transport Products list.

Request for State Pediatric Transport Protocols – Katherine Schafer briefly mentioned that she was looking for protocols from other states, but discussion was limited due to lack of time. Samantha provided Michigan's protocols at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Folder3/Folder41/Folder2/Folder141/Folder1/Folder>

¹ All children transported on a cot shall be restrained to the cot with the 5-point cot restraint system that includes three horizontal restraints across the torso (chest, waist, and knees) and one vertical restraint across each shoulder.

[241/EMS Section 4 Obstetrics and Pediatrics.pdf?rev=41c4c200b6ba47c69db38991b58cd01a&hash=91B5D4E49D0236C312BEDFF9A444B160](https://www.stc.state.tx.us/241/EMS%20Section%204%20Obstetrics%20and%20Pediatrics.pdf?rev=41c4c200b6ba47c69db38991b58cd01a&hash=91B5D4E49D0236C312BEDFF9A444B160)

Interim Guidance Flow Chart - Rachael Alter, Katherine Schafer, Renee Escamilla, Amy Eisenhower – This was deferred due to lack of time.

Crash Test Project Funding Update – Patrick Wilson shared that Vicki Hildreth, former EMSC Program Manager from West Virginia, arranged a meeting with Senator Joe Manchin’s office about the need for federal funding for developing standards for pediatric transport devices for ambulances. Jim Green, also a constituent of Senator Manchin, attended as did Patrick. Dia Gainor followed up with Senator Manchin’s staff providing detailed information.

Eric reported that his efforts to obtain funding for the crash test project through the New Jersey Office of Traffic Safety was unsuccessful. They determined it was not New Jersey’s responsibility to support a project that was a nationwide need.

Cyndy and Katherine asked if NHTSA could update the committee at the next meeting about the new funding that will be available through the new National Roadway Safety Strategy. Dave Bryson offered to share the information at the next meeting and will also send the presentation that addresses this. Dave said NHTSA’s Office of EMS spend countless hours explaining to their highway safety colleagues what post-crash care entails. He advised members to develop relationships with their state offices of highway safety who will be the custodians of the funding.

Jaime Bartell recommended applying for occupant protection funding through the state Office of Highway Safety. In South Dakota they worked years to establish a relationship with their Office of Highway Safety and now can purchase child restraints for ambulances with this funding.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 2:41 PM ET.

Next Meeting – October 27, 2022