



Support for Ambulance and Equipment Crash-Testing Standards and Related Safe Transport Recommendations for Children in Ground Ambulances

Whereas, children being transported in ground ambulances require restraint and/or immobilization equipment and methodology appropriate to their specific anatomical and physiological needs; and

Whereas state emergency medical services (EMS) officials are responsible for regulating equipment requirements for ground ambulances and for guiding services in adopting related safety practices in their respective states; and

Whereas state EMS officials seek evidence-based standards and national recommendations upon which to base regulations and guidance for services in this area; and

Whereas there are no such recognized standards for the appropriate sled and/or crash testing of ambulances and ambulance equipment (such as stretchers, adult and pediatric restraint/immobilization equipment), leaving the evaluation of equipment and techniques for the proper restraint/immobilization of children largely without sufficient scientific basis in the United States;

Whereas in this absence of such evidence-based standards, attempts have been made to provide expert panel-based national recommendations, such as the 2012 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) document *Safe Transport of Children in Emergency Ground Ambulances*, which have been found by some state EMS offices to be difficult to employ in guiding services to improve child-safe transport practices and equipment; and

Whereas NASEMSO enjoys a beneficial relationship with NHTSA and numerous other federal partners and national organizations, which fund or otherwise encourage research and development leading to evidence-based EMS standards;

Now therefore let it be resolved that the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) urges its federal and national organization partners to apply their resources to accelerate research and development of evidence-based standards upon which national EMS organizations, state EMS offices, EMS agencies and others can base recommendations for child-safe transport practices and equipment in ground ambulances; and

Be it further resolved that NASEMSO requests the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to join NASEMSO in reviewing the *Safe Transport of Children in Emergency Ground Ambulances* document to better enable state EMS officials and others to employ it in guiding EMS agencies to improve their child-safe transport practices and equipment.

Submitted by David Edwards (VA) on behalf of the Pediatric Emergency Care Council.

Signed this 9th day of October 2014.



James DeTienne
2012-2014 President



Dennis Blair
2012-2014 Secretary

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