



# Safe Transport of Children in Ambulances

Of course, we always hope that the children we love will never require ambulance transportation. However, the reality is that some 6 million kids are transported by EMS vehicles every year in the United States, and it is imperative to make sure these trips are as safe as possible for patients, families, caregivers, and EMS providers.

The Federal Government is currently working to develop consensus recommendations regarding safe EMS transport for ill and injured children. But until these recommendations are made available, there are a few simple practices that EMS providers can adopt to significantly decrease the likelihood of a crash and/or the potential for injury in the event that accidents do occur. Emergency healthcare providers can use this simple checklist of "Do" and "Don't" behaviors to maximize safety during EMS runs.

## DO

- DO drive cautiously at safe speeds, observing all traffic laws.
- DO tightly secure all monitoring devices and other equipment.
- DO ensure available restraint systems are used by EMTs and other occupants, including patients.
- DO transport children who are not patients in separate passenger vehicles with proper restraints whenever possible.

## DON'T

- DO NOT drive at unsafe high speeds with rapid accelerations, decelerations, and turns.
- DO NOT leave monitoring devices and other equipment unsecured in moving EMS vehicles.
- DO NOT allow parents, caregivers, EMTs, or other passengers to be unrestrained during transport.
- DO NOT have the child/infant held in the parent, caregiver, or EMT's arms or lap during transport.



Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Emergency Medical Services for Children  
[www.coems.info/emsc](http://www.coems.info/emsc)

