



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Child Safety Seat

Policy No.: P132
Supersedes: 03/2019
Review Date: 02/2023
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POLICY STATEMENT

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center will provide parents/surrogate/guardian of any patient admitted under 8 years of age with the following information:

1. Summary of current state laws on child passenger safety seats/ booster seats;
2. Listing of child passenger safety seat programs located within Los Angeles County; and
3. Information describing the risks of death/injury associated with nonuse or misuse of a child passenger safety seat.

The Department of Pediatrics will not provide, install or instruct the parent/surrogate/guardian in the use of car safety seats or booster seats.

PROCEDURE:

1. The parents, family, or surrogate will be provided with a copy of the California Healthcare Association Release of a Child Under 8 Years of Age (Form 10-3 attached)
2. The physical therapist will evaluate and discuss the proper seating system for the special need child with the family/surrogate /guardian.
3. The family will be provided with information as to where they can purchase the appropriate car seat/booster seat.
4. It is the family/surrogate/guardian's responsibility to purchase the proper car/booster seat for the child. If the family is unable to afford a car/booster seat, they will be referred to Safety Belt USA, which has a listing of all loaner car seat programs in the Los Angeles County.
5. For inpatient children who may be seated in a standard seating system, Nursing will be responsible for educating the family in child passenger safety seating as part of pass criteria or discharge and documenting the training in the medical record.
6. Nursing will provide the family/surrogate/guardian a summary of current state laws on child passenger safety seats and information describing the risk of death/injury associated with the nonuse or misuse of a child passenger safety seat.
7. The parent/surrogate/guardian with whom this is discussed will be asked to sign the Form 10-3 to acknowledge that the person has been informed regarding the legal responsibilities of transporting a child.
8. The original signed Form 10-3 will be placed in the patient chart and a copy will be provided to the family/surrogate/guardian.

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9. Should the family/surrogate/guardian require instructions as to the proper placement of the car/booster seat in their vehicle or the proper placement of the child in the car/booster seat, they will be referred to their local Police or Fire Department.
10. All patients being transported on Rancho sponsored outings will be transported facing forward and with proper car/booster seats or restraints provided by the family or in an appropriate wheelchair compatible with seating systems.

REFERENCES:

Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Administrative Policy and Procedure B715 "Child Safety Seats"

California Child Passenger Safety Law, Vehicle Code 27363

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Pediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines and Policies 19th Edition, 2019
Pages 535 – 537.

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