

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING SERVICES POLICY

		Page 1	Of 2
Subject: CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY		Original Issue Date: 08/91	Policy # 229
		Supersedes: 09/08	Effective Date: 02/16
Departments Consulted:	Reviewed & Approved by: Professional Practice Committee Nurse Executive Committee Attending Staff Association Executive Committee	Approved by: (signature on file) Isabel Milan Chief Nursing Officer	

PURPOSE

To explain the LAC+USC Medical Center's responsibility with regard to the established regulations concerning child passenger safety.

POLICY

All hospitals are required to discuss information on the California law requiring child passenger restraint systems for children. Regardless of age or weight, all children are required to be in a child safety seat, booster seat or safety belt when being transported in a motor vehicle.

- Children eight (8) years of age or older must be secured in a federally-approved child passenger restraint system or safety belt.
- Children less than eight (8) years of age must be secured in a federally-approved child passenger restraint system in the back seat. If a child is less than eight (8) years old of age and is 4 feet 9 inches or taller, the child may be restrained by a safety belt in the back seat instead of a child passenger restraint system.

PROCEDURE

Nursing will distribute an informational brochure to the parents/guardians of all applicable children admitted to the Medical Center inclusive of new forms. The distribution of this information will be documented in the Medical Record and verified upon discharge.

Some additional information to provide to parent(s) and/or families using a child seat:

The back seat is generally the safest place in the car for all children

- Infant's until at least one (1) year of age and twenty (20) pounds must be properly secured in a rear facing car seat.
- Children age eight (8) or over may use the vehicle safety belt if it fits properly with the lap belt low on the hips, touching the upper thighs and the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest. If children are not tall enough for proper belt fit, they must ride in a booster.

Subject:

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Effective Date:

02/16

Policy #

229

Initials:

(signature on file)

- Older babies and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing convertible seat until they are at least two (2) YEARS OLD. Check manufacturer's instructions for maximum weight (30-45 lbs).
- Children should ride in a safety seat with a harness as long as possible (40-90 lbs., depending on the model).
- Children who have outgrown their safety seats need s booster for proper belt fil (usually until age 10-12).
- The 5-Step Test
 1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
 2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
 3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
 4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
 5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?

REFERENCE

California Healthcare Association

California Health and Safety Code Sections: 1204.3, 1212, 1268, 1596.95

California Vehicle Code Sections: 27360(a), 27360(b)

Safety Belt Safe USA

REVISION DATES

1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 05/98, 01/05, 09/08, 02/16