



PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

Your Voice In EMS

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Board Meeting Date: October 24, 2012

Subject: EMSOF Priority for Pediatric Transport Devices

VTR#: 1012-03

Committee/Task Force: EMS for Children (EMSC)

Recommended Goal

Recommended Policy Change

Other:

Recommendation:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should include “devices to facilitate the safe transportation of children in ground ambulances” as an EMS Operating Fund (EMSOF) priority item upon publication of the next EMSOF priority list (28 Pa Code § 1001.22 and 1001.23 related to criteria for funding; and allocation of funds).

Rationale [Background]:

In a time when a significant focus within EMS surrounds safety initiatives, the proper restraint of patients of all ages is a critical component of promoting a culture of safety.

In September 2012, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Office of EMS released a consensus-based guideline, which provides guidance for the safe transportation of children in ground ambulances. These guidelines provide for the safe transportation of both ill/injured and non-ill/injured children from the scenes of emergencies.

In 2011, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, at the recommendation of the EMSC committee, adopted a guideline for the safe transportation of children in ambulances, which was based off of the draft NHTSA guidance at that time. This guideline is scheduled to be included in the rollout of statewide EMS treatment protocols in 2013. Over the past year, the EMSC committee has made education surrounding the safe transport of children a priority project and has disseminated several educational publications to EMS agencies and hospital emergency departments.

Potential changes in other federal guidelines may lead to EMS agencies purchasing pediatric restraint device(s). For example, the latest draft of the updated American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma Federal Ambulance Equipment List now includes a “Federally approved child safety seat.” Additionally, the sun-setting of the GSA KKK 1822 vehicle standards will likely lead to the adoption of a new federal ambulance standard, which may reference pediatric restraint equipment.

This recommendation does not provide support for any particular device.

Medical Review [Concerns]:

No specific medical direction or clinical concerns were identified.

Fiscal Concerns:

Increased pressures exist on EMS agencies to acquire, maintain, and replace child restraint devices. EMSOF financial support may assist EMS agencies in overcoming these additional financial burdens.

Educational Concerns:

No specific educational concerns were identified with this recommendation. EMS agency managers should provide appropriate education to their providers on the proper use of any child restraint system device that is purchased.

Plan of Implementation:

The Department should publish, in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, an updated notice of EMSOF Priorities and provide notice to the regional EMS councils of the modification.

The PEHSC Committee/Task Force offers consultation to the Department in regard to the content of this Vote to Recommend (VTR) and its attached documents. The PEHSC Committee/Task Force specifically offers staff or member support to participate in Department deliberations regarding this recommendation in an effort to convey committee/task force discussions.

Board Meeting Comments/Concerns:

Signed: David Jones gms Date 11-12-12
President

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Accept: Table: Modify: Reject:

Comments: Clarification was provided that this was not a recommendation to require child transport devices on all ambulances. Bureau of EMS Director Schmider indicated that EMSOF funds could already be used for that purchase at the discretion of each regional EMS council. It was clarified that the intent of the VTR is to make this a statewide initiative and to have regional EMS councils encouraged to specifically identify these items when they consider the development of their regional priorities.

Date of Department Response: _____