

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF CHILDREN IN EMERGENCY GROUND AMBULANCES RELEASED

"Working Group Recommendations for the Safe Transportation of Children in Emergency Ground Ambulances" has been posted on the NHTSA website. The intent of the recommendations presented in this report is to improve the safe transport of children in emergency ground ambulances. Although recent crash data in the United States do not indicate that children are being killed or injured in ambulance crashes as patients or passengers, a review of local and national media coverage of ambulance crashes suggests that children of all ages may not be properly restrained while riding in ambulances and can potentially be injured if involved in a crash. Meanwhile, accepted national protocols for EMS and child passenger safety professionals in the United States for how best to safely transport children in ground ambulances from the scenes of traffic crashes or medical emergencies to hospitals or other facilities are very limited. The goal of this project is to provide consistent national recommendations that will be embraced by local, State, and national emergency medical services organizations, enabling them to reduce the frequency of emergency transports of ill, injured or uninjured children in an unsafe or inappropriate manner. It is hoped that the recommendations provided in this report will address the lack of consistent standards or protocols among EMS and child passenger safety professionals in the United States regarding how to most safely transport children in ground ambulances from the scene of a traffic crash or medical emergency to a hospital or other facility. To view the report go to:
www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/811677.pdf