

## Safe Pediatric Ground Ambulance Transport Project

Dear WNY EMS Agencies,

As part of a quality improvement initiative, the Trauma Department at the John R. Oishei Children's Hospital (OCH) is placing a major focus on safe pediatric transport to the hospital. The overall goal of this initiative is to improve patient care by increasing the number of pediatric patients who are transported in the to the hospital in ground ambulances using child-appropriate restraints.

To achieve this goal, we would like to partner with area EMS agencies and providers to implement a program that will help us identify and address barriers to safe child ground ambulance transport. We would appreciate the help of your agency and staff in the following areas:

- **Ambulance Bay Observations at OCH:** In order to assess the needs of area agencies, project staff will be conducting regular observations of how pediatric patients are being transported to the hospital via ground ambulance. We will be recording general patient information (e.g., patient age, weight), as well as whether pediatric restraints were available and in use. Please let your EMS providers know that we may be asking them questions about transport, particularly in those cases when children are able to walk off the ambulance.
- **EMS Provider Surveys:** We will be distributing a 5-10 minute survey for EMS Providers to fill out that will help us learn about their understanding of and experiences with safe transport of pediatric patients to the hospital. We will be reaching out to you in the hopes that you will forward the survey link on to your agency EMS providers and encourage participation.
- **EMS Agency Manager Interviews:** We would like for the opportunity to interview area EMS medical directors and other agency managerial staff to obtain their perspective on potential barriers to safe pediatric transport at the organizational and health system level. If you would be interested in participating in an interview (30 min or less over the phone or Zoom), please contact Denise Lillvis ([DLillvis@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:DLillvis@kaleidahealth.org)).
- **EMS Agency In-service Trainings and Staff Focus Groups:** We would like for the opportunity to train EMS providers on when and how to use pediatric restraints in the ambulance. If you are interested in having an in-service with your staff, please contact Ben Kasper at [BKasper1@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:BKasper1@kaleidahealth.org). Part of the in-services will consist of a focus group with staff members to identify potential knowledge and skill gaps when it comes to using pediatric restraints. We have a limited number of slots available and will make every effort to accommodate the agencies that serve OCH.

Thank you in advance for your time and assistance. If you have any questions about this initiative, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

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