



# McLean County Area EMS System

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All MCAEMS System Transporting Providers

**FROM:** Joel Nilles, DO  
Medical Director

**DATE:** 2/26/2014

**RE:** Transport Method and Documentation

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It has come to my attention some patients are being transported seated on either the bench seat or the “captain’s seat.” Although I can appreciate the fact that this could be the preference of the EMS provider, it remains true this method of transport is not appropriate. The safest and only acceptable method of transport is with the patient secured on the stretcher with all safety devices (including shoulder straps) applied. In light of this, effective immediately the following shall be done:

- All patients shall be transported appropriately secured to the stretcher with safety belts and shoulder restraints applied. Besides bona fide mass casualty incidents, the only exception to this would be children of the appropriate age secured in a state and federally **approved** child safety seat. Even during these exceptions, emphasis must always be placed on safe and secure patient transport. At no time shall a mass casualty incident be declared solely for *convenience* of transport.
- All transport patient care reports must explicitly state the manner the patient was transported. For example, “patient was transported on the stretcher with all safety belts applied” or similar phrase shall be documented in the narrative section. If the ePCR program has a defined space for patient transport manner, you may document in this area as an alternate to the narrative. In either event, the documentation must specifically state the manner of transport.

Once again, I can appreciate the convenience and preference providers may have for transporting the patient in a manner other than appropriately secured to the stretcher. However, our ultimate responsibility on this issue is to the patient’s safety. I also highly encourage all agency administrators and providers to explore ways to provide for the highest safety of every patient and EMS provider during transport.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the EMS office.