

Clinical Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

SECURING PATIENT, PASSENGERS AND EQUIPMENT IN THE AMBULANCE

SETTING	Service-wide
FOR STAFF	All staff
PATIENTS	All patients

Summary

Retrieve transfer critically ill adults and occasionally an accompanying relative by road from referring to receiving hospitals. All personnel travelling in the ambulance must be secured to minimise the risk of injury should there be a vehicle emergency such as sudden braking or a road traffic collision. In addition, all the equipment and kit must be stored / secured correctly to avoid the risk of injury as a consequence of an individual being struck by a loose object.

Patients

Patients must be secured to the critical care transfer trolley with the CEN compliant method detailed below:

Securing method	Notes
Ferno grey / orange adult straps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult straps with additional lap and leg belts • All must be secure
Scoop stretcher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients must not spend more than 45 minutes secured to a scoop stretcher • Blocks and tape must be used to achieve cervical spine immobilisation • The patient must be secured to the trolley using the Ferno adult straps and additional lap and leg belts
Vacuum mattress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be used for patients with suspected spinal injuries – ensure mattress vacuumed before leaving referring hospital • The mattress must be secured to the trolley using the Ferno adult straps and additional lap and leg belts

Team

- All team members must wear seatbelts when the vehicle is moving.
- The driver should be asked to stop the vehicle in a safe place to allow treatment of the patient if they need to unbuckle, except in the event of an emergency requiring immediate intervention. In this situation, the team must make the driver aware and the vehicle should be stopped when it is safe to do so.
- The hard shoulder of a motorway is a dangerous place and should be avoided unless an emergency situation arises.

Equipment

It is the responsibility of the team to ensure that all equipment and kit is safely stowed and/or secured as detailed below before the ambulance moves.

	Securing Method
Ferno trolley	Clamped in place using the floor mounted Ferno fixing plates
Kit bags	Stowed in cupboard
Zoll X-Series	Secure to Ferno trolley
B.Braun infusion pumps	Housed in the Space Station and/or secured to Ferno trolley
Hamilton T1 ventilator	Purpose fitted brackets on stretcher trolley
Oxygen cylinders	Purpose fitted cylinder holders on Ferno trolley Ambulance cylinder spaces secured with buckle straps
Patient bag and drugs bag	Secured with seatbelt in vacant seat or stowed cupboard
Scoop stretcher	Secured to rear door using mount and strap
Vacuum mattress	Stowed in cupboard

Accompanying relatives

Occasionally, Retrieve will allow a relative to accompany the patient during transfer. This person must:

- Be fit to travel and pose no risk to the Retrieve Team
- Receive a safety and conduct briefing before departure
- Follow all instructions given by the Retrieve Team and driver
- Wear a seatbelt at all times.

Document Governance

REFERENCES	N/A
RELATED DOCUMENTS AND PAGES	N/A
AUTHORISING BODY	Division of Surgery, University Hospitals Bristol & Weston NHS Foundation Trust
SAFETY	Adequate security of patient, passengers and equipment is imperative to maintaining team and patient safety.
QUERIES AND CONTACT	Retrieve Leadership Team