

California Department of Public Health Vehicle Occupant Safety Program (VOSP)

Spring 2018 • e-Newsletter for California's Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Community

This quarterly e-Newsletter provides a summary of CPS laws and programmatic support for the California community of local health departments, instructors, technicians, and advocates.

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CPS Parent Brochures

Additional printed copies of the CPS Parent Brochure (printed back-to-back in English and Spanish) are available. Please contact [Claudia Angel](#) for copies.

CPS in Hospitals and Education for Nurses

In California, hospitals and birthing centers must educate caregivers of child patients on child passenger safety basics. Specifically, [California Health & Safety Code 1268](#) mandates a hospital's responsibility to educate parents on the risks of improper restraint, and provide referral to a resource for checking proper installation. [California Vehicle Code 27363.5 a & b](#) states that hospitals must provide information on the car seat laws to the person into whose care the child will be discharged.

Often, child passenger safety education falls to the nursing staff and is accomplished by handing out a pamphlet at discharge. If a hospital is following best practice, it will have policies in keeping with the American Academy of Pediatrics' policy statement, "[Hospital Stay for Healthy Term Newborn Infants](#)" under recommendation #13. It states that prior to discharge and after an appropriate car seat has been obtained, the mother is to demonstrate to "trained" hospital staff appropriate infant positioning and use of the car seat.

How are nurses being trained in proper car seat use? What happens after the parent of the soon-to-be-discharged child finishes reading the pamphlet and now has questions about getting their child home safely? In addition to existing mandates, these questions demonstrate the need for standardized training resources. By mandate or out of the necessity born by questioning caregivers, nurses need to be trained.

6-CEU Course for Nurses

After listening to concerns from hospital administration and staff, the University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and Alameda County Emergency Medical Services created an enhanced Basic CPS Awareness Training for Nurses, revising an existing course Safe Kids Worldwide had developed in 2014.

The Alameda County team looked at what knowledge and tools Registered Nurses would need to educate parents, which led to the development of a course that covered the basics of CPS through all stages of development. Hands-on sessions were included in which nurses could practice choosing an appropriate seat for the weight, height, and age of their patient and demonstrate correct positioning, as well as scenarios for discussion points at discharge. The training also includes descriptions of injuries that are associated with improper car seat or seat belt use to reinforce the importance of proper usage.

The course has undergone observation and peer review from Helen Arbogast, Director of Safe Kids California and Trauma Manager for Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Heidi Heflin Program Consultant of Safety Belt Safe USA, and Salvador Vargas, Injury Prevention Manager, from Stanford's Children's Hospital. The training includes an appendix and a pre/post-test, and has been provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 00374 for six contact hours.

Future Education Course

The final product will be shared in the resources section of [Safe Kids Worldwide](#) so that this standard eight-hour course for Registered Nurses will be easily accessible. Stay tuned for further details!

Hospital Mandates/Codes

Vehicle Code 27363.5. (a) A public or private hospital, clinic, or birthing center shall, at the time of the discharge of a child, provide to and discuss with the parents or the person to whom the child is released, if the child is under eight years of age, information on the current law requiring child passenger restraint systems, safety belts, and the transportation of children in rear seats.

(b) A public or private hospital, clinic, or birthing center shall also provide to and discuss with the parent or person to whom the child is released, if the child is under eight years of age, contact information to direct the person to an Internet Web site or other contact that could provide, at no cost or low cost, information and assistance relating to child passenger restraint system requirements, installation, and inspection. Pursuant to this

subdivision, the hospital, clinic, or birthing center does not have any additional obligation to provide patients with any assistance relating to child passenger restraint systems, other than providing the contact information as set forth in this subdivision. This contact information may include the following:

- (1) Call 1-866-SEAT-CHECK or visit www.seatcheck.org to find a nearby location.
- (2) The telephone number of the local office of the Department of the California Highway Patrol.
- (3) The Internet Web site for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Child Safety Seat Inspection Station Locator.
- (4) The Internet Web site for the State Department of Public Health's child passenger restraint system safety inspection locator.

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 1268

1268(b) As a condition of licensure, the director shall require evidence that the applicant have a written policy relating to the dissemination of the following information to patients:

- (1) A summary of current state laws requiring child passenger restraint systems to be used when transporting children in motor vehicles.
- (2) A listing of child passenger restraint system programs located within the county, as required by Section 27360 or 27362 of the Vehicle Code.
- (3) Information describing the risks of death or serious injury associated with the failure to utilize a child passenger restraint system.

Information included above is courtesy of Bonnie Lovette of UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and Carol Powers and Kat Woolbright of Alameda County Emergency Medical Services.

We are here to support you!

Please contact VOSP staff if you have any CPS Technician Training requests or questions, need CPS educational materials, or want to be on the list for future VOSP e-Newsletters.

Kate Bernacki, M.P.H.

(916) 552-9855

Claudia Angel

(916) 552-9804

If you have any CPS programmatic questions, please contact **Whitney Braziel**, the Office of Traffic Safety Occupant Protection and CPS State Coordinator, at (916) 509-3015.

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