

# Guideline for safe transfer of a guardian accompanying their child in the ambulance during a SORT transfer

Where possible we will offer transport to ONE guardian when transferring their child.

## Instructions to provide to guardians who are travelling with team:

- Guardian must travel in the back of the ambulance.
- It is expected that they will sit in the two rear facing seats travelling backwards, but this can be changed at the discretion of the transport team staff members.
- Seat belts must always be worn and not removed unless instructed to do so by the transport team.
- Guardians must always remain in their seats unless instructed to move.
- Guardians must be shown the exits in case of an emergency.
- In the event of needing to move the parent to provide more space to work, they will be asked to either stand at the back of the ambulance rear cabin or placed in the front cabin.
- The team may not be able to support the parent if they are busy resuscitating or stabilising the child.
- Written information about transport, SORT and the accepting unit should be provided in an appropriate language and the transport team should be prepared to read this aloud if appropriate and be able to answer questions.
- Guardian must not touch any of the equipment or dials in the ambulance.
- Vomit bowls are available.
- Can only bring one small bag with them in the ambulance.

## For guardian not travelling with team:

- Full contact details should be taken before departure.
- Family must be advised to not follow the ambulance.
- Family must be advised that if they see the ambulance has stopped to keep on travelling and not stop behind it.
- Contact details for the accepting unit must be given to guardians along with appropriate directions.

## When parents should not travel with the team:

- Parents decline to accompany.
- Any parent who cannot be secured using the standard seatbelt.
- Mothers that are less than 5 days post delivery by caesarean section or less than 6 hours by vaginal delivery.
- Any parent requiring medical attention (e.g. if involved in same accident, other illnesses, inpatient).
- Police instructions to not allow them to travel.
- Parents under influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Aggressive behaviours or severe anxiety disorders considered to put transport team or child at risk.
- Infectious diseases concern in parent or for team safety.
- Parents who suffer extreme travel sickness: *clear advice should be given about the difficulties of travelling in the rear of ambulance and travelling backwards; encouragements should be made to make alternative travel arrangements, but this is not an absolute indication to not travel.*

**Any member of the SORT service can request that a parent does not accompany the team in the ambulance.**