

Summary of Changes to Best Practice Guidelines for the Safe Restraint of Children Travelling in Motor Vehicles (2019 Update)

This document is designed to enable readers to identify the key changes. Full details of the evidence underpinning these changes is contained in the main Draft Guidelines document, and readers should read and respond to the complete sections of the full document when making submissions relevant to these changes.

Substantive Changes:

Introduction - Additional information on use of child restraints for children with disability.

Recommendation 1.9 (booster to adult belt transition):

- Stronger recommendation for use of the '5 step test' to guide booster seat to adult seat belt transition, and removal of 145-150cm height as approximate target for transition.

Consensus-Based Recommendation 2.1 (taxis and other vehicles):

- Addition of private hire cars and ride share services to the recommendation for children to use their recommended restraint in taxis.

Recommendation 2.11 (integrated restraints):

- New recommendation for use of add-on high back booster seats in preference to integrated boosters for children aged 4-8
- New recommendation that for older children, integrated boosters are suitable for use if adjacent to a curtain airbag

Consensus-Based Recommendation 4.2 (seating position for child restraint users):

- Removal of advice to use centre rear position for children seated in booster cushions
- Addition of advice to check for adequate clearance from the front seat for children in rear facing restraints

Consensus-Based Recommendation 5.8 (inflatable seat belts and child restraints):

- Advice that child restraints should only be used in seating positions with inflatable seat belts if advised to be safe by both vehicle and child restraint manufacturer.

Recommendation 5.7 (seat belt pretensioners)

- New advice that it is safe for children in child restraints and booster seats to sit in seating positions equipped with seat belt pretensioners

Recommendation 6.7 (seating posture):

- New recommendation to ensure child is in good upright seating posture when travelling

Recommendation 6.10 (ISOFIX):

- Additional advice that there is no evidence to recommend ISOFIX compatible restraints over restraints installed with a seat belt and tether

Practice Point 6 (small infants):

- New practice point advising parents of small infants (<2.5kg) to use rear facing restraints designed for low birthweight infants until they get good fit in a standard rear facing restraint

Practice Point 7 (preterm infants and apnoea):

- New practice point advising parents of premature infants to minimise time in the child restraint and observe the child in the restraint to minimise the risk of apnoea (stopping breathing)

Minor changes:

- Altered wording on consensus-based recommendation use of extended rear facing restraints (Type A4) noting no recommendation can be made about their safety in comparison with forward-facing

restraints for children over 12 months of age who have outgrown their Type A1 or A2 restraint. (CBR 1.6)

- Altered wording on consensus-based recommendation use of extended forward facing restraints (Type G) noting no recommendation can be made about their safety in comparison to booster seats for children who have outgrown a Type B restraint (CBR 1.8)
- Addition of advice to check for missing components in second hand restraints (CBR 2.16)