

Special Needs Car Seat Evaluation

There is a lot to think about prior to discharge. An early consultation with a special needs car seat technician is important to assure that the proper resources are available. Starting early with this process will ease the transition to home. We may have rental seats and special needs technicians available to assist with car seat installation. They are here to provide consults on positioning seats or casted patients in the vehicles, assistance with securing seats (short term and long term) and training caregivers on how to safely transport children. Altru staff can assist you with contacting a certified technician.

Special Considerations

There are many considerations that need to be taken into account when transporting a child with special needs or securing medical equipment.

- » Some vehicles better accommodate large medical seats. Often times, vehicle seats need to be removed or placed in the collapsed position in order to accommodate the child.
- » Additional passengers in the vehicle may be restricted due to the space needed for medical restraints.
- » Transportation of additional medical equipment such as monitors, oxygen tanks, or wheel chairs will be addressed prior to discharge. You may also need to bring pillows or blankets to help with proper/comfortable positioning.
- » Special anchors (top tethers and/or heavy duty top tethers) are often required due to the size and weight of the car seat. Arrangements can be made at your local car dealership to have hardware installed.

Renting Special Needs Seats

There is a cost associated with providing special needs seats, but thanks to the support of generous donors, Altru is equipped with several of these expensive seats that are available to rent for a minimal charge to families. The staff assisting you will discuss the cost and payment options.

Special Needs Car Seat Program



For more information call
701.780.1660 or
e-mail safekids@altru.org.

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What is this program about?

At Altru Health System, keeping your child safe is important to us. Upon discharge, some children are unable to use a traditional car seat for transportation. Altru has developed a car seat program that assesses a child's car seat needs and rents specialized seats if necessary.

Who needs specialty seats?

- » **Children with leg casts or a hip spica cast:** These children often have casts that put their legs in a position that is too wide to fit a car seat or an angle that prevents them from sitting correctly in a car seat. The child often needs a Hope car bed, Hippo seat, Traveler Plus, or an E-Z On vest.
- » **Premature infants:** Traditional infant seats typically have a 4-5 pound minimum weight. Premature infants are often discharged prior to reaching that weight or may not be able to tolerate sitting upright in a traditional car seat. These infants may be discharged laying flat in a car bed that allows them to lay on a vehicle seat. Altru offers three options including the Angel Guard, Dreamride, or Hope car bed, depending on the size and weight of the infant.
- » **Other medical diagnoses:** There are a variety of other reasons why a child may need a specialty seat or a consult on how to best transport them in the vehicle.

Casted Patient Special Needs Seats

**Hippo
Rear Facing**



**Hippo
Foward Facing**



Traveler Plus



E-Z On Vest



Infant Special Needs Seats

Angel Guard



DreamRide



Hope Car Bed



A car seat consultation will assess the vehicle options, seating positions and limitations of additional passengers in the car.

It is important that these considerations be made prior to discharge.