Rear-facing Infant Only Child Safety Seat

Rear-facing child safety seats come in 2 styles:

- Infant-only seats – are used for infants up to 22 to 32 pounds, depending on the model.
- Convertible seats – can convert from rear -to front-facing.

Check the owner's manual for proper installation of safety seats.

USING REAR-FACING CHILD SAFETY SEATS

- Never place a rear-facing infant seat in the front seat with an air bag. Use the back seat only. Air bags can cause serious injury or death to young children.
- Infants under 1 year and under 20 pounds must be rear facing.
- Some infant-only seats have detachable bases, which can be left in the vehicle. Read instructions thoroughly for correct installation. You can purchase more than one base to use in other cars.
- If you use a convertible seat rear-facing, be sure the seat belt goes through the correct path. Check the owner's manual.
- There are some crash tested infant car beds. These are used for babies who must lie flat, for medical reasons.

INSTALLATION

- Each manufacturer will provide directions for safe installation of safety seat. READ AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY.
- Install the seat tightly. If you can move the seat more than an inch front to back or side-to-side, it is too loose.
- Keep harness straps snug. Adjust them when the baby is wearing heavy clothes. Readjust the straps when the baby is not wearing heavy clothes.
- If there is more than one harness slot, the harness should be at or below the shoulders.
- Angle the seat so the baby's head is not flopping forward. If there is no angle adjusters on the car seat, tilt with a rolled towel under the front of the seat. Place chest clips at infant's armpit level to keep harness straps in place.
- If necessary, pad the side of the seat with rolled cloth diapers of baby blankets to prevent tiny infants from slouching to the side.
- Use locking clips on your car's seat belts if needed (see your car's owner's manual).
- Cars made after 2002 may have a system (called ‘LATCH’) for securing car safety seats. Anchors in the back seat can be used instead of seat belts to attach car seats – only if the car seats are equipped for LATCH.
- Secure infant in seat and then place blanket over infant (DO NOT cover infant's head).

These guidelines are based on those created by the American Academy of Pediatrics concerning child auto safety. Laws and regulations regarding child auto safety vary from state to state.

NHTSA recommends that child safety seats be replaced following a moderate or severe crash in order to ensure a continued high level of crash protection for child passengers.

Document Released: 03/09/2005 Document Re-Released: 10/14/2010
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.