Pediatric Grand Rounds Will Resume in September

NEW Child Passenger Safety Law!!!!

The MUSC Center for Child Advocacy provides a variety of government relations and public policy functions. The Center works closely with the SC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and manages the SC Children’s Hospital Collaborative (SCCHC), the non-profit association of the state’s four children’s hospitals. The Center was the driving force behind two key pieces of legislation enacted at the state level in 2017 – the child passenger safety law update and the Seizure Safety in Schools Study Committee.

Child Passenger Safety Law Update

- SCCHC sponsored legislation to update SC’s child passenger safety law enacted into law by the SC General Assembly on May 19, 2017.
- The new child passenger safety law meets national safety recommendations from AAP, NHTSA, and the CDC and is based on the concept of “fit.” The new requirements are:
  - Rear-Facing: Infant/child under 2 years of age must be in rear facing car seat in a rear passenger seat unless they exceed size requirements of seat.
  - Forward Facing: A child at least 2 years of age must be in a forward facing seat with a harness in a rear passenger seat until they exceed size requirements of the forward facing seat.
  - Booster Seat: A child at least 4 years of age who has outgrown forward facing seat must be in a booster seat in a rear passenger seat until they meet requirements for adult seat belt.
  - Seat Belt: A child must be age 8 or 57” in height AND MEET ALL fit requirements for adult safety belt. Fit requirements in the bill are:
    - Lap belt fits across thighs and hips, not abdomen
    - Shoulder belt crosses center of child’s chest, not the neck
    - Child is able to sit with back straight against vehicle seat back cushion with knees bent over seat edge without slouching
  - Front Seat: A child can sit in the front seat if they can meet all of the criteria for an adult seat belt, if all other rear passenger seating positions are occupied by younger children, or if the vehicle lacks a rear passenger seat.
  - Special Medical Needs: The new law also allows children with special medical needs to be transported in a car passenger safety seat designed for their needs – with the authorization of a physician, physician’s assistant, or advanced practice nurse.

Seizure Safety in Schools Study Committee

- With representation from the legislature, the children’s hospitals, pediatric neurology, nursing, SC Board of Medical Examiners, SC Dept of Education, and others, this study committee will review and make recommendations regarding school/teacher training, existing laws and regulations, use of seizure aborting medicines (including the issue of intranasal Midazolam).
- The study committee must report its recommendations to the SC General Assembly by January 31, 2018.