

Access for Prone Passengers

The Agency Council on Coordinated Transportation collaborated with the Department of Health's successful effort to create guidelines for individuals traveling in a lying down position. People confined to a prone or supine position have limited options available to participate in daily life activities. The guidelines open up a new level of service that previously was not available to people with disabilities.

Access to normal transportation resources (common taxi carrier, public transit, private vehicles) is limited. Until recently, an ambulance was the only choice available to individuals with disabilities. Use of an ambulance to travel to a social event, shopping or school is not practical and most insurers do not pay for ambulance trips of this nature.

The group worked together to reach a consensus on the following items:

- Conditions under which transportation by a vehicle other than an ambulance should be available to an individual with disabilities
- How to safely secure a mobility device in a vehicle
- How to safely secure a passenger in a mobility device
- Staffing to ensure the safety of the person with disabilities
- Next steps

The final recommendations include a new option for people who must travel in a prone or supine position. The group consulted industry standards and successful strategies from other states for transporting people with such disabilities. The guidelines produced focus on the following subjects:

- Responsibility of the transportation provider
- Use of the client's personal mobility device vs. one owned by the transportation provider
- Securing a passenger's personal mobility device
- Securing a transportation provider-owned mobility device
- Driver and attendant requirements
- Vehicle and equipment guidelines
- Other in-service safety considerations

Along with DOH, ACCT was able to work with transit, private transportation providers, the ambulance industry, and people with disabilities. Each of these groups brought a different prospective in order to make the final product stronger.