

# EXCEPTIONAL PARENT MAGAZINE

*The Family and Professional Journal for the Special Needs Community*

## WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTATION SAFETY (WTS) SERIES

### WTS Series Installments

In 2007 EP will run a series of articles on Wheelchair Transportation Safety that will enlighten about the basic principles of occupant protection and the products that provide safe travel when seated in a wheelchair in a motor vehicle. With each installment in the series, readers will be offered additional resources for further reading.

#### Using a Wheelchair as a Vehicle Seat: An Overview of Wheelchair Transportation Safety (WTS)

In the first of this series of articles on WTS, Larry Schneider and Mary Ellen Buning start with the basics by exploring the principles of occupant protection as they are outlined for typical vehicle passengers and then highlight the issue of transfer into a vehicle seat and subsequent occupant restraint. How these occupant protection principles translate when a passenger sits in a wheelchair are covered and an introduction to the WTORS and WC-19 standards is encompassed in the scope of this first column.

#### Getting the Right Wheelchair: A WC19-compliant Wheelchair

The second article, authored by Miriam Manary and Doug Hobson, expands on the WC-19 standards: how it got started and what it says about design, performance and labeling. The reader is instructed on how to know if a wheelchair is WC-19 compliant as well as given information on which manufacturers are making WC-19 compliant wheelchairs.

#### Riding to School in a Wheelchair

Mary Ellen Buning, Miriam Manary and Sue Shutrump address the issue of wheelchair safety as it applies to school age children. For instance, what variations exist in local implementation? How should transportation be covered in your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP)? What role do the driver and bus aid play? Where can a parent get compliance questions answered?

#### Teens in Transition: Community Transportation

What about transitioning into young adulthood? Mary Ellen Buning and Sue Fuhrman talk about how to plan for the transition into the world of work. Will a teenager learn to drive? What transportation issues are unique to rural areas?

#### The Issue of Wheelchair Liability

Larry Schneider, Gina Bertocci Sue Fuhrman discuss the issue of wheelchair liability and how to maximize safety in a non-WC19 wheelchair. They also address the implications of chairs with and without a wheelchair anchored pelvic safety belt. At this point in the series, they introduce WC20 and WC21 standards as well as the issue of riding in a scooter or a power-operated vehicle.

#### What is in the Future for Wheelchair Transportation Safety?

Linda vanRoosmalen and Doug Hobson bring the WTS series to a close as they look to and speculate on the future of WTS. What will be the face of public transportation in the coming years? Are rear-facing containments, automatic wheelchair docking stations and wheelchair-mounted torso safety belts on the horizon? Are modifications to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coming down the pike in the area of bus travel and paratransit?



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