

## A. Introduction

The proper use of a stretcher is a vital component of both comfort and continued safety of patients being transported by Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Units. Utilizing all straps outlined in this procedure is mandatory to ensure the safe operation of the stretcher.

## B. Types of Restraints

1. Stryker's manufacturer supplied strap assembly
2. Orange backboard straps
3. Ferno Pedi Mate® PLUS Pediatric Restraint System

## C. Procedure

### BLS

The manufacturer's recommendation for this stretcher is the use of all straps that come with the assembly. This includes 1 strap above each shoulder, a waist strap, and a leg strap. Proper utilization of all securing straps reduces the chance of a patient sliding off the stretcher.

### Stryker Stretcher

1. Place patient onto stretcher in the recommended position or position of comfort.
2. Pull each shoulder strap over the patient's shoulder, leaving the individual connectors by the patient's waistline.
3. Utilizing the waist strap buckle, use the male end and insert through the two separate shoulder connectors. Once inserted through the connectors, secure the waist strap by inserting the male end into the female portion on the buckle. Pull down on all straps to ensure a snug but comfortable fit.
4. Finally, secure the patients legs with the strap located on the lower portion of the stretcher. Adjust as needed according to patients' size and differences in anatomy.

Ferno stretchers are not equipped with stock straps. Orange backboard straps are used to secure patient. The location of this strap is across the patient's waist. Other straps may be added on different locations of the stretcher if necessary.

### **Ferno Stretcher**

1. Place patient onto stretcher in the recommended position or position of comfort.
2. Place orange backboard strap over the patient's waist, then pull snug.
3. Utilize additional straps as needed to secure the patient.

### **Ferno Pedi-Mate® PLUS - Pediatric Restraint System**

Ferno Pedi-Mate® PLUS Pediatric Restraint System is designed for the restraint of pediatric patients in a range of sizes, 10 – 100 lbs. (4.5 – 45 kg). The system provides a quick and efficient method to secure pediatric patients to nearly any stretcher without any other child-restraint seat. The system is a fully adjustable five-point harness that is able to secure a patient in a comfortable position for transport.

All attempts must be made to secure pediatric patients as outlined. Pediatric patients will **NOT** lap ride on a stretcher unless necessary to expedite emergency medical care. If a pediatric patient cannot be secured as outlined, the transporting Rescue OIC will determine the final method of restraint for safe transport.

#### **a) Positioning and Securing to the Ferno Pedi-Mate® PLUS**

1. It is recommended to remove any restraints attached to the stretcher.
2. Raise the stretcher backrest to an angle between 15 and 45 degrees to allow for the patient's shoulder to be higher than the pelvis and maintain the appropriate center of gravity.
3. Unroll the Pedi-Mate® PLUS and spread it flat across the stretcher mattress with all of the straps extended.
4. Center the restraint device on the mattress of the stretcher.
5. Position the device with the black backrest strap at the point where the patient's shoulder would rest. The base of the device should sit at the joint of the stretcher, where the patient will be seated.



6. Run the ends of the grey and black floating backrest strap around the back of the stretcher until they meet and fasten the buckle, while leaving some slack in the strap for final adjustment.
7. Fasten the straps to the center fixed-frame of the stretcher on both sides, leaving slack in the straps for final adjustment.

**b) Securing the Patient to the Ferno Pedi-Mate® PLUS**

1. Place the patient onto the Pedi-Mate® PLUS. If the black backrest strap is not at the patient's shoulder level, adjust the position of the blanket.
2. Tighten the backrest strap by pulling firmly on the free end until it is compressing the stretcher mattress.
3. Pull the lower center strap buckle up between the patient's legs and lay the strap on the patient's abdomen.
4. Wrap the black chest strap of the grey and black floating strap around the patient's chest and fasten it under the shoulder straps, tighten snugly but allowing space for normal chest expansion.
5. Lift the shoulder strap over the patient's shoulder and place the patient's arm through the strap and lock the buckle half into the center buckle. Repeating on the other side.
6. Thread the shoulder strap on the patient's left side through the chest clip and slide the chest clip up to rest on top of the black chest strap.
7. Tighten the harness straps:
  - a. Snug the shoulder strap against the shoulder and chest by pulling the lower part of the strap with one hand while holding the buckle steady with the other hand. Repeat on the other side.
  - b. Snug the torso strap by pulling the tail ends of the straps on both sides.
  - c. Snug the crotch strap by pulling on the free end.



**c) Storing the Pedi-Mate® PLUS**

1. Detach the Pedi-Mate® PLUS from the stretcher and spread it flat across the mattress of the stretcher.
2. Attach the shoulder straps to the central buckle and adjust the straps so that they lay smoothly against the blanket.
3. Fold the backrest straps across the blanket.
4. Fold up the lower center strap buckle towards the center of the blanket.
5. Fold the two lower stretcher main-frame straps and the lower blanket panels across the center of the Pedi-Mate® PLUS.
6. Start from the lower center strap panel and roll the Pedi-Mate® PLUS upward tightly and secure the roll with the fixed hook-and-loop straps.

**d) Disinfecting and Cleaning the Pedi-Mate® PLUS**

1. Disinfect the Pedi-Mate® PLUS after each use by wiping or spraying disinfectant throughout the restraint system surfaces and straps, allowing for the appropriate contact time as per the directions of the disinfectant.
2. Cleaning can be performed as needed. The Pedi-Mate® PLUS blanket and straps can be washed with warm, soapy water and a clean cloth or soft brush. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and dry the blanket with a towel and allow the straps to air dry.

**NOTE:** Do not immerse the buckles in water.