



# **EVAC-U-SPLINT® Pediatric Mattress**

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

### **Models PD 3000, PD 1500 and PD1000**

### **Application Guidelines specific to the Pediatric Mattress**

*The EVAC-U-SPLINT® Pediatric Mattress operates in the same manner as the full-size EVAC-U-SPLINT Mattress, but there are a few modifications that you should be familiar with when using the pediatric vacuum mattress.*

**IMPORTANT:** First read and understand the Application Guidelines for the adult sized EVAC-U-SPLINT Vacuum Mattress, then read the following guidelines that are specific to the pediatric version to insure your understanding of the unique features and benefits of the EVAC-U-SPLINT Pediatric Mattress.

**Strap Design** – The straps on the pediatric mattress come straight across the patient and do not zig-zag down the patient. This configuration enables the straps to come closer together when fastened allowing very small children to be immobilized effectively in the vacuum mattress. It also allows an individual strap to be unfastened while keeping the other straps fastened. This could be beneficial for physicians that need to examine a particular area of the child while still keeping the child securely immobilized.

**Valve** – There is one valve at the foot-end of the pediatric mattress. The EVAC-U-SPLINT Pediatric Mattress can be evacuated with a manual vacuum pump, a portable battery-operated suction unit or with a hospital's wall mounted suction unit.

**Handles** – There are four handles appropriately positioned for easy lifting of an immobilized child. The pediatric mattress can be lifted from the sides or from the ends. It is suggested to lift from the sides whenever possible as this distributes the patient's weight evenly among the two rescuers who are lifting the patient.

**Positioning of the Patient** – The injured child should be logrolled or lifted onto the vacuum mattress in accordance with the procedures established by your EMS organization's medical director. Because of the anatomical difference between adults and children, the child's torso usually needs to be elevated so that their cervical spine remains in neutral alignment. This can be accomplished easily with the vacuum mattress by following these steps: 1) Distribute the beads evenly throughout the length of the mattress. 2) Place the child on the mattress and check to see if the patient is in neutral alignment. 3) If the patient's head is flexed, simply make a slight depression under the occipital

region of the child's head. The amount of depression can easily be changed depending on the size of the child's head in relation to their body. This helps place the child in neutral alignment and does not require the child to be repositioned once they are placed on the surface of the pediatric mattress.

Once the child is properly positioned, the straps can be secured and the mattress evacuated. Care should be taken to minimize any movement of the patient during the application and securement of the vacuum mattress. Use of a rigid cervical collar should be a decision made by your local medical director. Medical grade adhesive tape, either 1" or 2" in width can be used to secure the forehead of the patient in the vacuum mattress. In addition, some children's hospitals have found that applying a 1" wide piece of tape just under the patient's nose is an excellent method for stabilizing a child's head. **Consult your medical director if questions arise as to the recommended immobilization procedures for your area.**

**Cleaning** – The EVAC-U-SPLINT Pediatric Mattress can be cleaned as stated in the EVAC-U-SPLINT Application Guidelines for the adult-sized patient.

**Storage** – Always inspect the product for damage prior to storing it. This will help ensure that the EVAC-U-SPLINT Pediatric Vacuum Mattress is always ready to use under emergency conditions. The mattress should be stored in an area that is above freezing (32°F/0°C). The mattress can be used in environments below freezing, down to -30°F (-34°C), but it **should not be stored in an area where the temperature is below freezing.** If there is any doubt, bring the product to a temperature that is above freezing before using it in the field.

**Always follow your local medical protocols approved by your medical director.** If you become aware of any serious incident related to the use of the device, you should report the incident to Hartwell Medical and to your local medical device regulatory authority. Should you have any specific questions about the design, application or maintenance of this product, please visit our website or call us at (760) 438-5500.



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### DOCUMENTATION OF TRAINING

Everyone who will be using or operating the EVAC-U-SPLINT® Pediatric Mattress should be required to actively participate in the initial training and all subsequent refresher training sessions. This will ensure a clear understanding of the function and capabilities of the EVAC-U-SPLINT Pediatric Mattress. You should utilize the training process that has been approved by your organization and is in accordance with your medical director’s guidelines. Important items to document should be the training date, names of attendees, the instructor’s name and title, and the training location.

### MAINTENANCE LOG

Routine inspection and maintenance is required to keep the EVAC-U-SPLINT® Pediatric Mattress ready for immediate use. If, at any time, the EVAC-U-SPLINT Pediatric Mattress is suspected of not functioning properly it should be taken out of service until such time that it can be thoroughly inspected and properly repaired or replaced.

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AGEVPM 4/24