



Transit Safety for Scooters

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Scooters are NOT safe as seats in a motor vehicle due to the way they are currently designed. Scooters are actually designed for use on hard surfaces and for travel from point A to B. They were intended for people who are able to transfer in and out of them safely and who have walking difficulty due to poor balance, low endurance, weakness, and/or pain.

Because of the needs of the intended user they were designed to steer with a tiller or handle bar which makes it easier to learn to drive. The seat was designed to rotate or pivot on a height adjustable column which makes transfers easier. The narrow wheelbase allows them to get through tighter doorways. They are also typically offered with 3 wheels which makes them lighter and easier to collapse and lift into the trunk of a car. The problem is that within the transportation setting these same features spell trouble: a detachable, lightweight seat mounted atop a hollow tube, handlebars aimed for your abdomen, and a narrow wheelbase with 3 wheels which leads to tipping.

When the standards for "transit-ready" wheelchairs were developed, the standard included information for the design of a crash-tested scooter. This standard still exists and could guide a manufacturer to design, build, and crash-test a scooter but NO manufacturer has stepped up to the challenge. Because of the "in the home" restriction, CMS does NOT fund any feature for a mobility device that makes it safer in the transportation setting. Most certified seating and mobility specialists will suggest that a consumer transfer out of a scooter and sit in a vehicle seat (i.e., one that is anchored to the floor of the vehicle).

Some hope exists in the development of a new transportation safety device, Quantum, developed by Q'Straint (see the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vx-lxlo2r_0&feature=youtu.be.) The manufacturer, Q'Straint, does mention using the *Quantum* for self-wheelchair securement. This technology is only safe for use in a "Rear Facing Securement Station" which is only available on some large accessible transit buses (i.e., city buses in some cities).