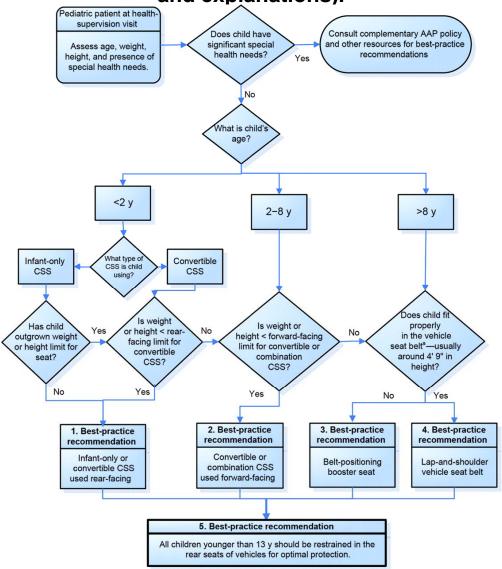# Algorithm to guide the implementation of best-practice recommendations for optimal child passenger safety (see Table 1 for a summary of recommendations and Table 2 for definitions and explanations).

Pediatric patient at health-supervision visit

Assess age, weight, height, and presence of special health needs.

Does child have significant special health needs? — **Yes** → Consult complementary AAP policy and other resources for best-practice recommendations

No ↓

What is child's age?

- **<2 y**
- **2–8 y**
- **>8 y**

<2 y → What type of CSS is child using?
- Infant-only CSS → Has child outgrown weight or height limit for seat?
  - **No** → 1. Best-practice recommendation
  - **Yes** → Is weight or height < rear-facing limit for convertible CSS?
- Convertible CSS → Is weight or height < rear-facing limit for convertible CSS?
  - **Yes** → 1. Best-practice recommendation
  - **No** → Is weight or height < forward-facing limit for convertible or combination CSS?

Is weight or height < forward-facing limit for convertible or combination CSS?
- **Yes** → 2. Best-practice recommendation
- **No** → Does child fit properly in the vehicle seat belt[a]—usually around 4' 9" in height?
  - **No** → 3. Best-practice recommendation
  - **Yes** → 4. Best-practice recommendation

1. Best-practice recommendation

Infant-only or convertible CSS used rear-facing

2. Best-practice recommendation

Convertible or combination CSS used forward-facing

3. Best-practice recommendation

Belt-positioning booster seat

4. Best-practice recommendation

Lap-and-shoulder vehicle seat belt

5. Best-practice recommendation

All children younger than 13 y should be restrained in the rear seats of vehicles for optimal protection.

PEDIATRICS®