

Initial Date: 12/18/2015

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Section 2-1

## **Adult/Pediatric Trauma Triage**

### **PURPOSE**

The goal of any trauma patient assessment and transportation guideline is to facilitate delivery of the patient to the most appropriate level of care in the most expeditious manner.

**Exception to these triage guidelines is made for trauma patients requiring airway intervention that cannot be accomplished by pre-hospital personnel. These patients will be transported to closest appropriate hospital to allow for airway management, resuscitation and immediate transfer for definitive care as indicated.**

I. Assess Patient According to National Guideline for the Field Triage of Injured Patients  
A. **RED CRITERIA** – High Risk for Serious Injury - Include the Following

1. Injury Patterns

- a. Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and proximal extremities
- b. Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture
- c. Suspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory loss
- d. Chest wall instability, deformity, or suspected flail chest
- e. Suspected pelvic fracture
- f. Suspected fracture of two or more proximal long bones
- g. Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity
- h. Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
- i. Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure

2. Mental Status & Vital Signs

- a. All Patients
  - i. Unable to follow commands (motor GCS < 6)
  - ii. RR < 10 or > 29 breaths/min
  - iii. Respiratory distress or need for respiratory support
  - iv. Room-air pulse oximetry < 90%
- b. Age 0-9 Years
  - i. SBP < 70mm Hg + (2 x age in years)
- c. Age 10-64 years
  - i. SBP < 90 mmHg or
  - ii. HR > SBP
- d. Age ≥ 65 Years
  - i. SBP < 110 mmHg or
  - ii. HR > SBP

B. Patients meeting any one of the **above RED CRITERIA** should be transported to a Level 1 or Level 2 trauma center, with the following age group guidance:

- 1. **Adult** (15 years of age or older) – In order of preference of destination
  - a. Level 1 or Level 2 Trauma Center within 45 minutes. (If Level 1 or Level 2 Trauma Center is not possible within 45 minutes by ground transport from scene – consider air medical.)
  - b. Level 3 Trauma Center within 45 minutes

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- c. Level 4 Trauma Center within 45 minutes
- 2. **Pediatrics** (14 years of age or younger) – In order of preference of destination
  - a. Pediatric Level 1 or Pediatric Level 2 Trauma Center if within 45 minutes
  - b. Level 1 or Level 2 Trauma Center within 45 minutes (If NEITHER a Level 1 or Level 2 Pediatric Trauma Center NOR Level 1 or Level 2 Trauma Center is possible by ground transport from scene – consider air medical.)
  - c. Level 3 Trauma Center within 45 minutes
  - d. Level 4 Trauma Center within 45 minutes.
- II. **YELLOW CRITERIA** – Moderate Risk for Serious Injury – Include the Following
  - A. Mechanism of Injury
    - 1. High-Risk Auto Crash
      - a. Partial or complete ejection
      - b. Significant intrusion (including roof)
        - i. >12 inches occupant site OR
        - ii. >18 inches any site OR
        - iii. Need for extrication for entrapped patient
      - c. Death in passenger compartment
      - d. Child (age 0-9 years) unrestrained or in unsecured child safety seat
      - e. Vehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injury
    - 2. Rider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact (e.g., motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.)
    - 3. Pedestrian/bicycle rider thrown, run over, or with significant impact
    - 4. Fall from height > 10 feet
  - B. EMS Judgement
    - 1. Consider risk factors, including
      - a. Low-level falls in young children (age ≤ 5 years) or older adults (age ≥ 65 years) with significant head impact
      - b. Anticoagulant use
      - c. Suspicion of child abuse
      - d. Special, high-resource healthcare needs
      - e. Pregnancy > 20 weeks
      - f. Burns in conjunction with trauma
      - g. Children should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable centers
    - 2. If concerned, transport to a trauma center
  - C. Patients meeting any one of the **YELLOW CRITERIA** WHO DO NOT MEET **RED CRITERIA** should be preferentially transported to a trauma center, as available within the geographic constraints of the regional trauma system (need not be the highest-level trauma center per local MCA and trauma policies)

**National Guideline for the Field Triage of Injured Patients**

**RED CRITERIA**

**High Risk for Serious Injury**

| Injury Pattern  | Mental Status & Vital Signs  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and proximal structures</li> <li>• Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture</li> <li>• Suspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory loss</li> <li>• Chest wall instability, deformity, or suspected flail chest</li> <li>• Suspected pelvic fracture</li> <li>• Suspected fracture of two or more proximal long bones</li> <li>• Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity</li> <li>• Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle</li> <li>• Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure</li> </ul> | <p>All Patients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to follow commands (motor GCS &lt; 6)</li> <li>• RR &lt; 10 or &gt; 29 breaths/min</li> <li>• Respiratory distress or need for respiratory support</li> <li>• Room-air pulse oximetry &lt; 90%</li> </ul> <p>Age 0–9 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBP &lt; 70mm Hg + (2 x age in years)</li> </ul> <p>Age 10–64 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBP &lt; 90 mmHg or</li> <li>• HR &gt; SBP</li> </ul> <p>Age ≥ 65 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBP &lt; 110 mmHg or</li> <li>• HR &gt; SBP</li> </ul> |

***Patients meeting any one of the above RED criteria should be transported to a Level 1 or Level 2 trauma center.***

**RED CRITERIA Adult** (15 years of age or older) Order of destination choices

1. Level 1 or Level 2 Trauma Center within 45 minutes.  
*\*If Level 1 or Level 2 Trauma Center is not possible within 45 minutes by ground transport from scene – consider air medical.*
2. Level 3 Trauma Center within 45 minutes
3. Level 4 Trauma Center within 45 minutes.

**RED CRITERIA Pediatrics** (14 years of age or younger) Order of destination choices

1. Pediatric Level 1 or Pediatric Level 2 Trauma Center if within 45 minutes
2. Level 1 or Level 2 Trauma Center within 45 minutes  
*\*If Level 1 or Level 2 Pediatric Trauma Center NOR Level 1 or Level 2 Trauma Center is possible by ground transport from scene – consider air medical.*
3. Level 3 Trauma Center within 45 minutes
4. Level 4 Trauma Center within 45 minutes

**YELLOW CRITERIA**

**Moderate Risk for Serious Injury**

| Mechanism of Injury   | EMS Judgement  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-Risk Auto Crash                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Partial or complete ejection</li> <li>– Significant intrusion (including roof)                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;12 inches occupant site OR</li> <li>• &gt;18 inches any site OR</li> <li>• Need for extrication for entrapped patient</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Death in passenger compartment</li> <li>– Child (age 0–9 years) unrestrained or in unsecured child safety seat</li> <li>– Vehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injury</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact (e.g., motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.)</li> <li>• Pedestrian/bicycle rider thrown, run over, or with significant impact</li> <li>• Fall from height &gt; 10 feet (all ages)</li> </ul> | <p>Consider risk factors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-level falls in young children (age &lt; 5 years) or older adults (age &gt; 65 years) with significant head impact</li> <li>• Anticoagulant use</li> <li>• Suspicion of child abuse</li> <li>• Special, high-resource healthcare needs</li> <li>• Pregnancy &gt; 20 weeks</li> <li>• Burns in conjunction with trauma</li> <li>• Children should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable centers</li> </ul> <p>If concerned, take to a trauma center</p> |

**Patients meeting any one of the **YELLOW CRITERIA** WHO DO NOT MEET **RED CRITERIA** should be preferentially transported to a trauma center, as available within the geographic constraints of the regional trauma system (need not be the highest-level trauma center per local MCA and trauma policies)**

**NOTES**

1. Medical Control may be contacted to determine the appropriate destination when indicated.
2. High risk pelvic fracture does not include isolated hip fractures without significant mechanism