



TRAUMA TRIAGE



I. AUTHORITY:

Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.258, 1798, 1798.160-1798.169, and 1798.2; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chpt 7.

II. POLICY:

This policy identifies the types of injuries and situations that require transport of trauma victims to an Orange County EMS (OCEMS) designated Paramedic Trauma Receiving Center (PRTC).

III. DEFINITION of a TRAUMA VICTIM:

A trauma victim is someone who has a blunt or penetrating injury with the presence of any of the following:

A. Abnormal Vital Signs:

- Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) less than 14 (in the presence of head injury)
- RESPIRATION:
Adult/Adolescent/ Children¹: less than 12 per minute OR greater than 30 per minute
- SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE:
Adult/Adolescent: less than 90
Children¹: less than 80

Note #1: A child is defined as less than age 13 years-old

B. Injuries:

- Penetrating or open injury of the head
- Depressed skull fracture
- Blunt head injury with loss of consciousness greater than 5 minutes
- Penetrating injury to the neck, chest, abdomen, back, or groin
- Penetrating injury to extremity above elbow or knee
- Extremity with poor circulation or without a pulse
- Paralysis or numbness of arm or leg (or suspicion of spinal cord injury)
- Flail chest
- Seat belt bruising or abrasion of neck, chest or abdomen
- Abdominal injury, blunt, with tenderness of 2 or more quadrants
- Fracture of two or more long-bones (femur, humerus)
- Pelvic pain or deformity on palpation (positive barrel hoop exam of pelvis)
- Amputation above the wrist or ankle
- Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity (excluding only fingers or toes)

C. Mechanism of Injury

- Falls
 - Adult/Adolescent: greater than 15 feet (one story is equal to 10 feet)²
 - Children¹: greater than 10 feet or 2-3 times the height of the child²
- High-Risk Auto Crash
 - Passenger space intrusion greater than 12 inches where an occupant (who would be defined as a trauma victim) is sitting or any occupant in a passenger seat when there is greater than 18 inches intrusion at any site within the passenger space.²
 - Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile.
 - Person who is in same passenger compartment in which a trauma death has occurred.
 - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with high risk of injury

Approved:

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- Auto vs. Pedestrian / Bicyclist who is thrown any distance, run-over, or with significant (greater than 20 mph²) impact
- Motorcycle Crash greater than 20 mph², including "laying bike down"

Note # 2. Heights, speeds and distances are best estimates

D. Special Situations:

Patients with significant injury and any of the following may benefit from specialized trauma services; contact Base Hospital for destination decision regarding those with injury and:

- Burns
- Victim of Explosion
- Age greater than 55 years or less than 13 years
- Anticoagulation³ and Bleeding Disorders
- End-stage Renal Disease on Dialysis
- Pregnancy greater than 20 weeks
- EMS provider judgment that transport to a PTRC will benefit the injury victim

Note # 3. Aspirin, Coumadin, Plavix®, Lovenox®, or states is taking a "blood thinner"

VI. DESTINATION DECISIONS:

Base hospital contact is required for all patients described in this policy. Trauma victim destination is determined by the base hospital.

V. TRAUMATIC RESPIRATORY AND CARDIOPULMONARY ARREST:

At the discretion of the BH physician, trauma patients presenting with any of the following and for who resuscitation and transport is pursued should be triaged as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Unmanageable airway | Triage to closest PRC |
| • Traumatic cardiopulmonary arrest | Triage to PTRC |

Cross-references: OCEMS Ref # 240.10, 390.40, 620.00, 620.07, 620.11, 620.13, 620.14, 635.10, 670.10, and 900.00; OCEMS Treatment Guidelines # T-05, T-10, T-15, and T-20

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