



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, Chapter 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 Trauma Center (TC).

III. DEFINITION OF MEETS TRAUMA CRITERIA:

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)~~
- **FAILURE TO FOLLOW COMMANDS DUE TO DECREASED STATE OF ALERTNESS**
- 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 those ages 14 years old and younger.

B. Injuries:

- Penetrating or open injury of the head
- Depressed skull fracture
- Blunt head injury with **observed** loss of consciousness ~~greater than 5 minutes~~
- **Blunt head or facial injury with confusion, neurologic deficit, asymmetric pupils, or vomiting**
- Penetrating (**appears to penetrate all skin layers**) injury to the neck, chest, abdomen, back, or groin
- Penetrating (**appears to penetrate all skin layers**) injury to extremity above elbow or knee
- Extremity with poor circulation (**poor pulse or skin color**) or without a pulse
- Paralysis or numbness of arm or leg **due to injury**
- Suspicion of **acute** spinal cord injury
- Flail chest **or palpable subcutaneous air of chest or neck due to injury**
- 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
- Amputation above the wrist or ankle
- Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity (excluding only fingers or toes)
- **Reported or obviously pregnant woman with blunt or penetrating injury in lower abdomen**



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Notes: # 1: A child is defined as those ages 14 years-old and younger (less than age 15 years-old).
2: Heights, speeds and distances are best estimates

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