



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).

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

III. DEFINITION OF A TRAUMA VICTIM (MEETS TRAUMA CRITERIA):

A PERSON SUSTAINING BLUNT OR PENETRATING INJURY WITH THE PRESENCE OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING IS CONSIDERED TO MEET TRAUMA TRIAGE CRITERIA

A. Abnormal Vital Signs:

- Unable to follow commands with an acute decrease in usual mental status (motor GCS < 6)
- RESPIRATION:
 - RR < 10 or > 29 breaths/minute or
 - Respiratory distress or need for respiratory support or
 - Room-air pulse oximetry < 90%
- SYSTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE:
 - Age 0-9 years: Systolic BP < 70 mmHg + (2 X age in years)
 - Age 10-64 years: SBP < 90 mmHg
 - Age ≥ 65 years: SBP < 110 mmHg
- HEART RATE
 - For age ≥ 10 years: Heart rate > systolic blood pressure

B. Injuries:

- Penetrating or open injury of the head
- Depressed skull fracture
- Blunt or penetrating head injury with observed loss of consciousness, focal 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 injury with poor circulation or without a pulse
- Suspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory loss
- Blunt chest injury with abnormal respiration as defined above
- Seat belt bruising or abrasion of neck, chest, or abdomen
- Blunt abdominal/flank injury with palpable tenderness
- Fracture of two or more long bones (femur, humerus)
- Pelvic rim pain or deformity on palpation
- Amputation (partial or complete) above the wrist or ankle
- Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity (excluding only fingers or toes)



TRAUMA TRIAGE

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TRAUMA TRIAGE ALGORITHM: BLUNT OR PENETRATING INJURY

ABNORMAL VITAL SIGNS

Any one of:

1. Failure to follow commands (motor GCS < 6)
2. Respiratory rate < 10 or > 29 per min
Room air P.O. < 90%
Respiratory distress or need for respiratory support
3. Systolic BP: Age 0-9: SBP < 70 mmHg + (2 X age in years)
Age 10-64 years: SBP < 90 mmHg
Age ≥ 65 years: SBP < 110 mmHg
4. Heart rate: Age ≥ 10 years, heart rate > SBP

Base Contact;
Meets Trauma Triage
Criteria

INJURY IS SIGNIFICANT

- Penetrating or open injury of the head / Depressed skull fracture
- Blunt or penetrating head injury with observed loss of consciousness, focal neurologic deficit, asymmetric pupils, or vomiting
- Penetrating (appears to penetrate all skin layers) injury to the neck, chest, abdomen, back, groin, extremity above elbow or knee
- Extremity injury with poor circulation or without a pulse
- Suspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory loss
- Blunt chest injury with abnormal respiration as defined above
- Seat belt bruising or abrasion of neck, chest or abdomen
- Blunt abdominal/flank injury with palpable tenderness
- Fracture of two or more long-bones (femur, humerus)
- Pelvic rim pain or deformity on palpation
- Amputation (partial or complete) above the wrist or ankle
- Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity (excluding only fingers or toes)
- Pregnant woman with blunt or penetrating abdominal injury
- Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure
- Blunt head injury with bruising in area of injury and known to be taking anticoagulants or platelet inhibitors ("blood thinners") excluding aspirin; or known to have hemophilia or be a dialysis patient

Base Contact;
Meets Trauma Triage
Criteria

MECHANISM OF INJURY

- Falls:
 - Adult/Adolescent: Greater than 10 feet
 - Children: Greater than 10 feet or 2-3 times the height of the child
 - Adult/Adolescent/Child: Fall from a galloping horse
- High-Risk Auto Crash
 - Passenger space intrusion greater than 12 inches where an occupant is sitting or any occupant in a passenger seat when there is greater than 18 inches intrusion at any site within the passenger space.
 - Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile.
 - Passenger requiring extrication
 - Passenger age 0-9 years who is unrestrained or improperly restrained or not in a secured child safety seat.
 - Passenger in vehicle in which a trauma death has occurred.
- Diving and shore break injuries with suspected spinal cord injury
- Hanging
- Auto vs. Pedestrian / Bicyclist who is thrown any distance, run-over, or with significant (greater than 20 mph) impact

Base Contact;
Meets Trauma Triage
Criteria



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