EMS Trauma Triage & Transportation Flowchart
December 2009

Critical Trauma Patient Indicators
MAJOR Trauma Only

Compromised and unsecure airway
resulting from a traumatic event?

Yes → Transport to the closest designated trauma hospital within 30 minutes.

No ↓

Altered level of consciousness
<"A" on AVPU resulting from a traumatic event?

Yes →

No ↓

Respiratory distress
resulting from a traumatic event?

Yes →

No ↓

Shock or diminished perfusion
resulting from a traumatic event?

Yes →

No ↓

Severe burns?

Yes →

No ↓

Other considerations

- Severe multiple injuries (2 or more systems) or severe single system injury?
- Cardiac or major vessel injuries resulting from blunt or penetrating trauma?
- Injuries with complications (e.g., shock, sepsis, respiratory failure, cardiac failure)?
- Severe facial injuries?
- Severe orthopedic injuries?
- Co morbid factors (e.g., Age < 5 or >55 years, cardiac or respiratory disease, insulin-dependent diabetes, morbid obesity)?
- Evidence of traumatic brain injury &/or spinal cord injury (e.g. new paralysis)?

Yes →

- Consider helicopter emergency medical services if within 15 minutes of scene
- Consider ALS intercept

1. Transport to a designated level I or II trauma hospital that is within 30 minutes transport time.
2. If no level I or II within 30 minutes transport time, transport to closest designated trauma hospital within 30 minutes transport time, or to a more appropriate higher-designated trauma hospital if pre-determined by local medical directions. Initiate transfer arrangements according to local protocol.
3. If no designated trauma hospital is within 30 minutes transport time, transport to the closest hospital. Initiate transfer arrangements according to local protocol.

No → Transport according to local protocol.