



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 described in this policy. Trauma victim destination is determined by the Base Hospital.

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

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

- ~~• 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 (**less than age 15 years-old**).

B. Injuries:

- Penetrating or open injury of the head
- Depressed skull fracture
- Blunt **or penetrating** head injury with **observed** loss of consciousness ~~greater than 5 minutes~~, **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
- Paralysis or ~~numbness~~ **paresthesia** of arm or leg **due to injury**
- ~~• Suspicion of spinal cord injury~~
- ~~• Flail chest~~ **Blunt chest injury with abnormal respiration as defined above**
- Seat belt bruising or abrasion of neck, chest or abdomen
- **Blunt abdominal injury with palpable tenderness of 2 or more quadrants**
- 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)
- **Reported or obviously pregnant woman with blunt or penetrating abdominal injury**



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