



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)



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