



Policy 626: Trauma Triage

Revision 9/10/22
Effective 11/1/22

I. Purpose

- A. To establish guidelines for evaluating trauma patients to determine the most appropriate receiving hospital.
- B. Authority for this policy is noted in Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.222, 1798.162, 1798.163 California Code of Regulations Section 100255
- C. References for this policy include:
 1. National guideline for the field triage of injured patients: Recommendations of the National Expert Panel on Field Triage, 2021. *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*: August 2022 - Volume 93 - Issue 2 - p e49-e60
 2. Validation of a Prehospital Trauma Triage Tool: A 10-Year Perspective. *J. Trauma* 2008; 65:1253-1257.

II. Definitions

- A. Red Criteria refers to physiologic and anatomic criteria indicative for high risk of serious injury and are considered major trauma patients.
- B. Yellow Criteria refers mechanism or EMS judgment criteria indicative of moderate risk for serious injury and are considered minor trauma patients
- C. "Pediatric patient" is < 15 years old.
- D. "Non-trauma patient" is a patient who does not meet any red or yellow criteria.

III. Policy

- A. All trauma patients will be triaged using the following trauma triage tool. After completing this evaluation, pre-hospital personnel will transport patients in accordance with Policy 625 *Trauma Patient Transport and Hospital Destination*.



RED CRITERIA
High Risk for Serious Injury

Injury Patterns	Mental Status & Vital Signs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and proximal extremitiesSkull deformity, suspected skull fractureSuspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory lossChest wall instability, deformity, or suspected flail chestSuspected pelvic fractureSuspected fracture of two or more proximal long bonesCrushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremityAmputation proximal to wrist or ankleActive bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure	<p>All Patients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Unable to follow commands (motor GCS < 6)RR < 10 or > 29 breaths/minRespiratory distress or need for respiratory supportRoom-air pulse oximetry < 90% <p>Age 0-9 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">SBP < 70mm Hg + (2 x age in years) <p>Age 10-64 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">SBP < 90 mmHg orHR > SBP <p>Age ≥ 65 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">SBP < 110 mmHg orHR > SBP

YELLOW CRITERIA
Moderate Risk for Serious Injury

Mechanism of Injury	EMS Judgment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">High-Risk Auto Crash<ul style="list-style-type: none">Partial or complete ejectionSignificant intrusion (including roof)<ul style="list-style-type: none">>12 inches occupant site OR>18 inches any site ORNeed for extrication for entrapped patientDeath in passenger compartmentChild (age 0-9 years) unrestrained or in unsecured child safety seatVehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injuryRider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact (eg, motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.)Pedestrian/bicycle rider thrown, run over, or with significant impactFall from height > 10 feet (all ages)	<p>Consider risk factors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Low-level falls in young children (age ≤ 5 years) or older adults (age ≥ 65 years) with significant head impactAnticoagulant useSuspicion of child abuseSpecial, high-resource healthcare needsPregnancy > 20 weeksBurns in conjunction with traumaChildren should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable centers <p>If concerned, take to a trauma center</p>