



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

- Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and proximal extremities
- Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture
- Suspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory loss
- Chest wall instability, deformity, or suspected flail chest
- Suspected pelvic fracture
- Suspected fracture of two or more proximal long bones
- Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity
- Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
- Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure

Mental Status & Vital Signs

All Patients

- Unable to follow commands (motor GCS < 6)
- RR < 10 or > 29 breaths/min
- Respiratory distress or need for respiratory support
- Room-air pulse oximetry < 90%

Age 0-9 years

- SBP < 70mm Hg + (2 x age in years)

Age 10-64 years

- SBP < 90 mmHg or
- HR > SBP

Age ≥ 65 years

- SBP < 110 mmHg or
- HR > SBP

YELLOW CRITERIA
Moderate Risk for Serious Injury

Mechanism of Injury

- High-Risk Auto Crash
 - Partial or complete ejection
 - Significant intrusion (including roof)
 - >12 inches occupant site OR
 - >18 inches any site OR
 - Need for extrication for entrapped patient
 - Death in passenger compartment
 - Child (age 0-9 years) unrestrained or in unsecured child safety seat
 - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injury
- Rider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact (eg, motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.)
- Pedestrian/bicycle rider thrown, run over, or with significant impact
- Fall from height > 10 feet (all ages)

EMS Judgment

Consider risk factors, including:

- Low-level falls in young children (age ≤ 5 years) or older adults (age ≥ 65 years) with significant head impact
- Anticoagulant use
- Suspicion of child abuse
- Special, high-resource healthcare needs
- Pregnancy > 20 weeks
- Burns in conjunction with trauma
- Children should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable centers

If concerned, take to a trauma center