TRAUMA TRIAGE: ADULT

#1 - Measure Vital Signs

Glasgow Coma Scale

< than 14

Or, Systolic Blood Pressure*

- <90 mmHg [adult]
- <85 mmHg [child age 7-14]
- <70 mmHg [child age 0-6]
- * at any time

Or, Respiratory Rate

- < 10 or > 30 breaths/min.
- < 20 breaths/min. [infant age 0-1]



Transport to Trauma Center

Steps 1 & 2 attempt to identify the most seriously injured patients.

These patients should be transported to the closest appropriate Trauma Center.



#2 - Assess Anatomy of Injury

- All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow and knee
- Flail chest
- Two or more proximal long bone fractures
- Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity
- Amputation proximal to wrist and ankle
- Suspected pelvic fracture
- Open or depressed skull fracture
- Paralysis



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#3 - Assess MOI and Evidence of High Energy Impact

- ❖ Falls
 - > 20 feet (one story = 10 feet) [adult]
 - > 10 feet or 2-3 times the height of child [age 0-14]
- . High Risk Automobile Crash
 - Intrusion > 12 inches at occupant site
 - Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile
 - Unrestrained rollover
 - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with high risk of injury (if available)
- . Automobile vs. Pedestrian/Bicyclist
 - · Pedestrian/bicyclist thrown or run over
 - Significant (> 20 mph) impact
- ❖ Motorcycle Crash
 - > 20 mph



May Transport to Trauma Center If...

Paramedics are to use clinical judgment in each case

Mechanism of injury should only raise the index of suspicion - transport to a trauma center should have tangible signs and symptoms of injury.

Decision should not be based on mechanism of injury alone.

#4 - Assess Special Considerations

- ♣ Age
- Older adults: Risk of injury/death increases after age 55
- Children: Should be triaged preferentially to pediatric-capable trauma centers
- Anticoagulation and bleeding disorders
- Burns
- Refer to burn center triage criteria
- Death in same passenger compartment
- End stage renal disease requiring dialysis
- Pregnancy > 20 weeks with complaint of injury
- ❖ EMS provider judgment



May Transport to Trauma Center If...

Paramedics are to use clinical judgment in each case.

Special Considerations should only raise the index of suspicion - transport to a trauma center should have tangible signs and symptoms of injury.

<u>Decision should not be based on Special</u>
Considerations alone.

Transport to Local Facility

Adult Treatment Protocols