


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

**Trauma Triage Criteria**

	Effective: 12/01/2020	Next Review: 09/2023	<b>860</b>
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**PURPOSE:**

To identify individuals who are at greatest risk for severe injury and determine the most appropriate facility to transport patients with different injury types/severities.

**AUTHORITY:**

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5; Chapter 6, Article 2.5, § 1798.160.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7.

**PRINCIPLES:**

Patients meeting trauma triage criteria should be transported as soon as possible. On scene procedures should be limited to triage, patient assessment, airway management, control of external hemorrhage, and immobilization. Additional interventions should be completed enroute with the exception of those incidents requiring prolonged extrication.

**TRAUMA TRIAGE CRITERIA:**

**A. Physiologic Trauma Triage Criteria (one or more):**

- 1. Respiratory rate <10 or >29 breaths per minute (<20 in infants <1 year of age), or need for ventilatory support.
- 2. Altered Mental Status:
  - <65 years of age: Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) ≤13.
  - ≥65 years of age: GCS <15 (or decrease from baseline) with evidence/suspicion of head strike.
- 3. Hypotension:
  - <65 years of age: Systolic Blood Pressure <90.
  - ≥65 years of age: Systolic Blood Pressure <100.

**B. Anatomic Trauma Triage Criteria (one or more):**

1. All penetrating injuries to the head, neck, chest, torso and extremities proximal to the elbow or knee.
2. Chest wall instability or deformity (e.g. flail chest).
3. Two (2) or more suspected proximal long-bone fractures in a patient of any age, or any suspected proximal long-bone fracture following a motor vehicle collision in a patient  $\geq 65$  years of age.
4. Paralysis.
5. Suspected pelvic fractures.
6. Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle.
7. Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity proximal to wrist or ankle.
8. Depressed or suspected open skull fracture.

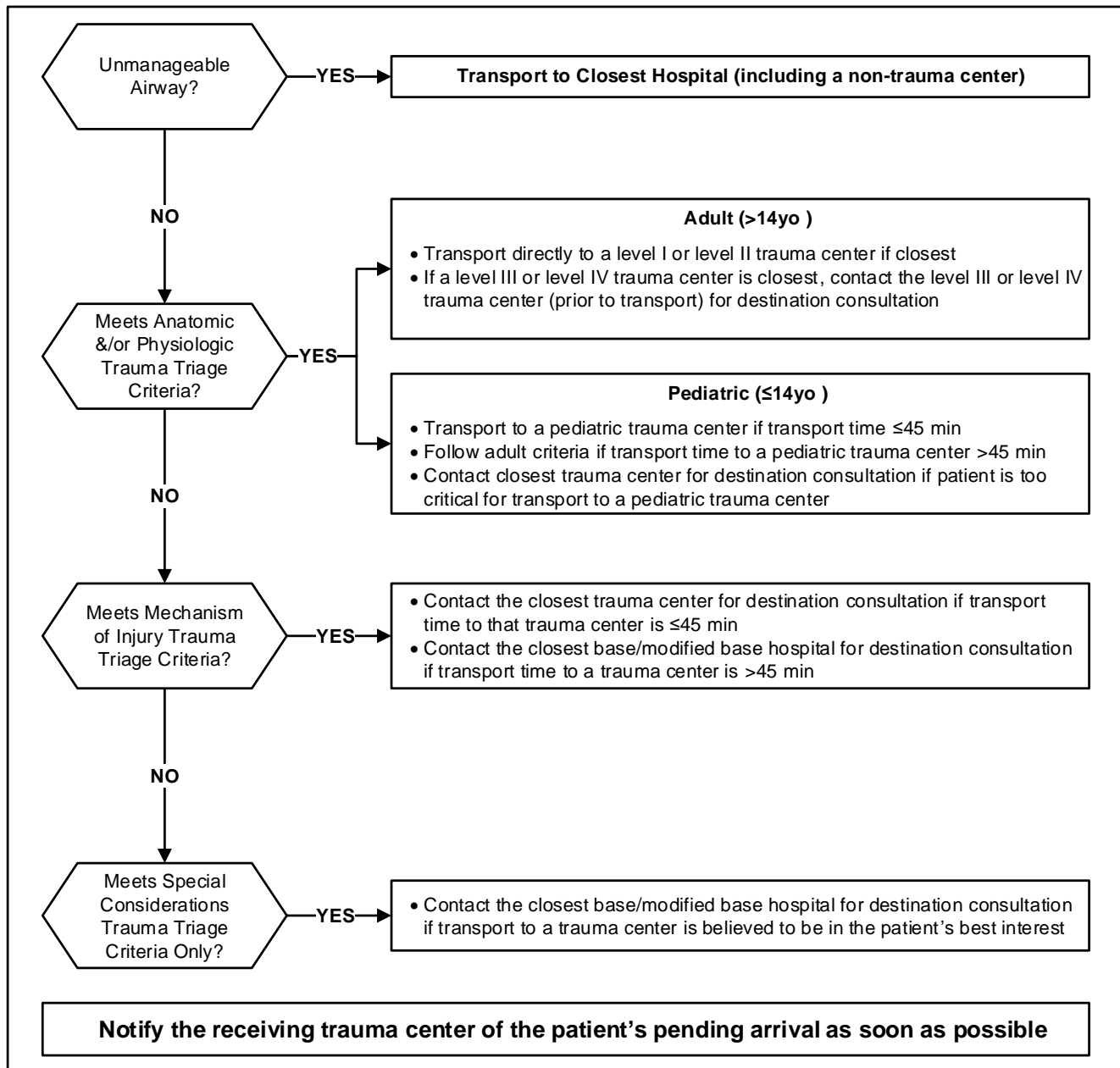
**C. Mechanism of Injury Trauma Triage Criteria (one or more):**

1. High-risk auto crash (any of the following):
  - Ejections (partial or complete) from automobile.
  - Death in the same passenger compartment.
  - Intrusion, including roof:  $>12$  inches at occupant site or  $>18$  inches at any site.
2. Non-Automotive crash  $>20$  mph including, but not limited to: motorcycle, ATV, go-cart, bicycle, skateboard, watercraft and aircraft.
3. Auto vs Pedestrian/Bicycle:
  - $<65$  years of age: Thrown, run over, or with significant ( $>20$  mph) impact.
  - $\geq 65$  years of age: Struck by a moving vehicle.
4. Falls:
  - $\leq 14$  years of age: Fall  $>10$  feet or three (3) times their height
  - 15 - 64 years of age: Fall  $>20$  feet.
  - $\geq 65$  years of age: Fall  $>20$  feet, or any fall with evidence/suspicion of head strike.
5. Other high energy impact.

**D. Special Considerations Trauma Triage Criteria (any of the following):**

1. Current anticoagulation or antiplatelet use, or history of bleeding disorder.
2. Pregnancy >20 weeks.
3. Prehospital personnel judgement.

**TRAUMA PATIENT DESTINATION:**



**GLASGOW COMA SCALE (GCS):**

<b>Adult GCS</b>			
<b>Points</b>	<b>Eye Opening Response</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>	<b>Motor Response</b>
<b>6</b>			Obeys Commands
<b>5</b>		Oriented & converses	Localizes pain
<b>4</b>	Opens spontaneously	Disoriented & converses	Flexion withdrawal
<b>3</b>	Opens to verbal stimuli	Inappropriate words	Flexion abnormal (decorticate)
<b>2</b>	Opens to painful stimuli	Incomprehensible sounds	Extension (decerebrate)
<b>1</b>	No response	No response	No response

<b>Pediatric GCS</b>			
<b>Points</b>	<b>Eye Opening Response</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>	<b>Motor Response</b>
<b>6</b>			Normal movement
<b>5</b>		Cries appropriate/coos/babbles	Withdraws to touch
<b>4</b>	Opens spontaneously	Irritable cry	Withdraws to pain
<b>3</b>	Opens to verbal stimuli	Inappropriate crying/screaming	Flexion abnormal (decorticate)
<b>2</b>	Opens to painful stimuli	Grunts	Extension (decerebrate)
<b>1</b>	No response	No response	No response