

## Ohio State EMS Region IV Regional Physicians Advisory Board

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### Determination of major and intermediate trauma victims

Emergency medical service personnel shall use the criteria in this policy, consistent with their certification, to evaluate whether an injured person qualifies as a **major or intermediate** adult ~~trauma victim~~ or pediatric trauma victim.

- (A) An adult **major** trauma victim is a person sixteen years of age or older exhibiting one or more of the following physiologic or anatomic conditions:
- (1) Physiologic Conditions
    - (a) Glasgow coma scale less than or equal to ~~thirteen~~ **twelve**;
    - (b) Deterioration in level of consciousness at the scene or during transport;
    - (c) Failure to localize to pain (**GCS motor component  $\leq 4$** );
    - (d) Requires endotracheal intubation;
    - (e) Requires relief of tension pneumothorax;
    - (f) Pulse greater than one hundred twenty in combination with evidence of hemorrhagic shock;
    - (g) Systolic blood pressure less than ninety, or absent radial pulse with carotid pulse present;
  - (2) Anatomic conditions
    - (a) Penetrating trauma to the head, neck, or torso;
    - (b) Injuries to the head, neck, or torso where the following physical findings are present:
      - (i) Visible crush injury;
      - (ii) Pelvic fracture;
      - (iii) Flail chest;
    - (c) Injuries to the extremities where the following physical findings are present:
      - (i) Amputations proximal to the wrist or ankle;
      - (ii) Visible crush injury;
      - (iii) Fractures of two or more proximal long bones;
      - (iv) Evidence of neurovascular compromise.
    - (d) Signs or symptoms of spinal cord injury;
    - (e) Second or third degree burns greater than ten percent total body surface area or other significant burns involving face, feet, hands, genitalia or airway.

- (B) **An adult intermediate trauma victim is a person sixteen years of age or older who does not qualify as a major trauma victim and who exhibits one or more of the following physiologic or anatomic conditions:**
- (1) Physiologic conditions
    - (a) Glasgow coma scale **equal to thirteen.**
    - (b) Loss of consciousness greater than five minutes **witnessed by any EMT.;**
    - (c) **Pulse greater than 120 without evidence of hemorrhagic shock**
    - (d) Respiratory rate less than ten or greater than twenty-nine.
  - (2) Anatomic conditions
    - (a) Significant, penetrating trauma to extremities proximal to the knee or elbow with evidence of neurovascular compromise;
    - (b) Injuries to the head, neck, or torso where **there is** abdominal tenderness, distention, or seat belt sign;
- (C) A pediatric **major** trauma victim is a person under sixteen years of age exhibiting one or more of the following physiologic or anatomic conditions:
- (1) Physiologic conditions
    - (a) Glasgow coma scale less than or equal to ~~thirteen~~ **twelve;**
    - (b) Deterioration in level of consciousness at the scene or during transport;
    - (c) Failure to localize to pain (**GCS motor component  $\leq$  4**);
    - (d) Evidence of poor perfusion, or evidence of respiratory distress or failure.
  - (2) Anatomic conditions
    - (a) Penetrating trauma to the head, neck, or torso;
    - (b) Injuries to the head, neck, or torso where the following physical findings are present:
      - (i) Visible crush injury;
      - (ii) Pelvic fracture;
      - (iii) Flail chest;
    - (c) Injuries to the extremities where the following physical findings are present:
      - (i) Amputations proximal to the wrist or ankle;
      - (ii) Visible crush injury;
      - (iii) Fractures of two or more proximal long bones;
      - (iv) Evidence of neurovascular compromise.
    - (d) Signs or symptoms of spinal cord injury;
    - (e) Second or third degree burns greater than ten percent total body surface area or significant burns involving face, feet, hands, genitalia or airway.

- (D) **A pediatric intermediate trauma victim is a person under sixteen years of age exhibiting one or more of the following physiologic or anatomic conditions:**
- (1) Physiologic conditions
    - (a) Glasgow coma scale **equal to thirteen.**
    - (b) Loss of consciousness greater than five minutes **witnessed by any EMT;**
  - (2) Anatomic conditions
    - (a) Significant, penetrating trauma to extremities proximal to the knee or elbow with evidence of neurovascular compromise;
    - (b) Injuries to the head, neck, or torso where there is abdominal tenderness, distention, or seat belt sign;
- (E) **For adult and pediatric trauma victims** emergency medical service personnel shall also consider mechanism of injury and special considerations, as taught in the EMT-basic, EMT-intermediate, or EMT-paramedic curriculum, when evaluating whether an injured person qualifies as a trauma victim. **Mechanism of injury and special considerations are NOT stand alone indicators for determination of trauma level, but rather should be factored into the overall assessment.**

### **Appropriate Destination**

**Major trauma patients will be transported to the closest appropriate level I or level II trauma center. Intermediate trauma patients will be transported to the closest appropriate level I, level II or level III trauma center. The appropriate destination may be modified by the following considerations:**

1. It is medically necessary to transport to another hospital for initial assessment and stabilization.
2. It is unsafe or medically inappropriate due to adverse weather conditions or excessive transport times. **A transport time in excess of 20 minutes as estimated by the transporting EMS unit may be considered excessive under this policy.**
3. Would cause a shortage of local EMS resources.
4. No trauma center is able to receive patient and provide care with out undue delay.
5. Before transport begins, if the patient or parent request transportation to a particular hospital.
6. **A pregnant trauma patient in the second or third trimester of pregnancy should be transported to a trauma center that also provides obstetrical services.**
7. **A pediatric major trauma patient should be transported to a pediatric trauma center.**
8. **An individual, who is defined as a major trauma patient by virtue of burns, should be transported to a recognized burn center.**