

# SAN FRANCISCO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

**Policy Reference No: 5001**  
**Effective Date: January 7, 2013**  
**Supersedes: August 1, 2008**

## TRAUMA TRIAGE CRITERIA

### I. PURPOSE

To identify patients meeting trauma criteria including those requiring base hospital contact before transport to the San Francisco General Hospital.

### II. AUTHORITY

California Health and Safety Code, 1797.67, 1797.198, and 1797.204, 1798.160, 1798.161.

California Code of Regulations Title 22, §100248, 100252, 100255.

Committee on Trauma, American College of Surgeons, *Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient*: 2006, Chapter 3.

### III. CRITERIA FOR TRANSPORT TO A TRAUMA CENTER

Patients meeting one or more of the following in any category shall be transported to the trauma center:

#### A. Physiologic Criteria

1. Glasgow Coma Score < 13
2. Systolic Blood Pressure < 90
3. Respiratory Rate for adult < 10 or > 29 per minute
4. Respiratory Rate for infants less than 1 year, < 20 per minute.

#### B. Anatomic Criteria

1. All gunshot wounds.
2. All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso and extremities proximal to elbow and knee.
3. All blunt trauma with suspected significant chest, abdominal or pelvic injury.
4. Flail chest.
5. All burns or inhalation injuries associated with trauma.
6. Two or more proximal long bone injuries
7. Pelvic fractures.
8. Limb paralysis.
9. Amputation proximal to wrist and ankle.
10. Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity.
11. Open or depressed skull fracture.
12. Multi-system trauma.

#### C. Mechanism of Injury

1. Adult falls > 20 feet ( 1 story = 10 ft.)
2. Pediatric falls > 10 feet ( 2 to 3 times the height of the child)
3. High risk auto crash:

- a. Intrusion into passenger compartment > 12 inches or > 18 inches on any site
  - b. Ejection from vehicle (partial or complete)
  - c. Death of another passenger in same compartment
  - d. Extrication time > 20 minutes
7. Motorcycle accident:
- a. Initial speed > 20 mph
  - b. Separation of rider from bike while in motion
8. Auto-pedestrian or bicycle injury:
- a. Impact > 5 mph
  - b. Thrown or run over

**IV. 📞 BASE HOSPITAL CONTACT**

Contact the Base Hospital to determine whether patients who have not met physiological, anatomic, or mechanism of injury criteria, but have underlying conditions or comorbid factors that place them at a higher risk for injury. These include:

1. Patients < 5 years and > 55
2. Anticoagulants and bleeding disorders
3. Time sensitive extremity injury
4. End-stage renal disease requiring dialysis
5. Abdominal injuries and restraint use in children
6. Pregnancy > 20 weeks
7. EMT-P concerns or judgment.