

Trauma Activation for Injuries

Measure vital signs and level of consciousness

- GC < 10 or,
- Systolic BP < 90 mmHg (80mmHg < age 8) or,
- Respiratory < 10 or > 29 or, < 20 in infant aged < one year
- Unstable airway
- Shock

NO

YES

Activate
Trauma
Code

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
- Pelvic fractures
- Open or depressed skull fracture
- Paralysis OR
- Unstable patients transferred from other hospitals
- Physician discretion

NO

YES

Activate
Trauma
Code

Assess mechanism of injury & evidence high energy impact

1. Falls
Adults: > 20 feet (one story is equal to 10 feet)
Children: > 10 feet or two to three times the height of the child
2. High risk auto crash
Intrusion: > 12 inches, occupant side; > 18 inches, any site
Ejection (partial or complete) from the vehicle
Death in same passenger compartment
Vehicle telemetry data consistent with high risk of injury
3. Auto vs. Pedestrian/bicyclist thrown, run over, or with significant (> 20 mph) impact
Motorcycle crash > 20 mph

NO

YES

Activate
Trauma
Alert

Assess special patient or system considerations

1. Age
Old Adults: risk of injury/death increases after age 55 years
Children: should be triaged preferentially to pediatric-capable trauma centers
2. Anticoagulation and bleeding disorders
3. Burns
Without other trauma mechanism: triage to burn facility
With trauma mechanism: triage to trauma center
4. Time sensitive extreme injury
5. End-stage renal disease requiring dialysis
6. Pregnancy > 16 weeks OR
7. EMS provider judgement

NO

Not a
Trauma
Activation

YES

Activate
Trauma
Alert