

PREHOSPITAL TRAUMA TRIAGE GUIDELINES

Time and distance are extremely important variables to consider when triaging injured patients to local hospitals or trauma centers. Patients who meet the following guidelines and are within 30 minutes transport time to a trauma center should be transported directly to that center. Patients with an unstable airway, or in cardiopulmonary arrest, or when transport time exceeds 30 minutes should be initially treated at the nearest emergency facility approved under NYS Public Health Law Article 28, in order to stabilize prior to transport.

TRAUMA TRIAGE GUIDELINES

I. Measure vital signs and level of consciousness, if there is :

- A. Loss of consciousness at any time >5 minutes or alteration in level of consciousness at any time of exam or thereafter, (GCS <13) **OR**
- B. Respiratory rate <10 or >28 /minute; (or outside of normal range for pediatric patients) **OR**
- C. Pulse rate <50 or >120/minute; (or outside the normal range for pediatric patients) **OR**
- D. Systolic blood pressure <90 mmHg; (or outside of normal range for pediatric patients)

Then transport to a Trauma Center. Contact Medical Command enroute when possible.

OR

II. Assess the anatomy of injury and mechanism of injury; if there is:

- A. Penetrating injury to chest, abdomen, head, neck, or groin **OR**
- B. 2 or more suspected proximal long bone fractures, open fractures of long bone, **OR**
- C. Flail Chest, **OR**
- D. Degloving injury, major amputation (not included in the prehospital amputation triage guidelines) **OR**
- E. Combination trauma with burns of >10%, or inhalation injuries, **OR**
- F. Suspected pelvic fractures, **OR**
- G. Paralysis, **OR**
- H. Falls of 20 feet or more (10 feet for <12 yrs patients) **OR**
- I. Prolonged extrication of >30 minutes, **OR**
- J. Ejection of the patient, **OR**
- K. Rollover of the vehicle, **OR**
- L. Death of same car occupant, **OR**
- M. Pedestrian hit at 20 MPH or more, **OR**
- N. High speed crash (intrusion into patient compartment > 12 inches)

Then - Transport to Trauma Center. Contact Medical Command enroute when possible