

PREHOSPITAL AMPUTATION TRIAGE GUIDELINES

Time and distance are extremely important variables to consider when triaging patients with isolated amputations of the upper extremity to local hospitals or to Hand Centers. Patients who meet the following guidelines and are within 30 minutes transport time to the Hand Center should be strongly considered for transport directly to that center. Patients with an unstable airway, in cardiopulmonary arrest, in shock or in a more suburban/rural environment (where transfer time exceeds 30 minutes) should be treated initially at the nearest appropriate emergency facility in order to stabilize the patient prior to transport.

These guidelines apply only to isolated complete/near complete amputations that are between the elbow and the proximal interphalangeal joint of the fingers as outlined on the figure below.

Patients with multiple system injuries, major amputations above the elbow or amputations of the lower extremity should be transported directly to the regional trauma center as indicated in the WREMS Trauma Triage Guidelines.

