



IX. 2022 National Guideline for the Field Triage of Injured Patients

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RED CRITERIA

High Risk for Serious Injury

Injury Patterns	Mental Status & Vital Signs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and proximal extremities• Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture• Suspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory loss• Chest wall instability, deformity, or suspected flail chest• Suspected pelvic fracture• Suspected fracture of two or more proximal long bones• Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity• Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle• Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure	<p>All Patients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unable to follow commands (motor GCS < 6)• RR < 10 or > 29 breaths/min• Respiratory distress or need for respiratory support• Room-air pulse oximetry < 90% <p>Age 0–9 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SBP < 70mm Hg + (2 x age years) <p>Age 10–64 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SBP < 90 mmHg or• HR > SBP <p>Age ≥ 65 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SBP < 110 mmHg or• HR > SBP

Patients meeting any one of the above RED criteria should be transported to the highest-level trauma center available within the geographic constraints of the regional trauma system

YELLOW CRITERIA

Moderate Risk for Serious Injury

Mechanism of Injury	EMS Judgement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High-Risk Auto Crash<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Partial or complete ejection– Significant intrusion (including roof)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• >12 inches occupant site OR• >18 inches any site OR• Need for extrication for entrapped patient– Death in passenger compartment– Child (Age 0–9) unrestrained or in unsecured child safety seat– Vehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injury• Rider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact (eg, motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.)• Pedestrian/bicycle rider thrown, run over, or with significant impact• Fall from height > 10 feet (all ages)	<p>Consider risk factors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low-level falls in young children (age ≤ 5 years) or older adults (age ≥ 65 years) with significant head impact• Anticoagulant use• Suspicion of child abuse• Special, high-resource healthcare needs• Pregnancy > 20 weeks• Burns in conjunction with trauma• Children should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable centers <p>If concerned, take to a trauma center</p>

Patients meeting any one of the YELLOW CRITERIA WHO DO NOT MEET RED CRITERIA should be preferentially transported to a trauma center, as available within the geographic constraints of the regional trauma system (need not be the highest-level trauma center)

Note: "Low-level" refers to less than 10 feet including ground level falls

Source: The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma (ACS COT), 2022

APPENDICES