

SAEMS Trauma Triage Protocol

Measure VS and Level of Consciousness for abnormalities related to traumatic injury

Step One

GCS <14 or
Systolic BP <90 mmHg or
Respiratory Rate <10 or >29 breaths/ min (<20 if under 1 yo)

Yes

No

Take to a trauma center. Steps 1 and 2 attempt to identify the most seriously injured patients who should be transported to the nearest level one trauma center.

Assess anatomy of injury

Step Two

- All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to the elbow or knee
- Flail chest/multiple rib fractures
- Two or more proximal long bone fractures
- Crush, degloved or mangled extremity
- Amputation proximal to the wrist or ankle
- Pelvic fractures (excludes isolated hip fractures)
- Open or depressed skull fracture
- Multiple trauma with evidence of head injury
- Extremity trauma with vascular deficit
- Burns
 - With trauma mechanism – triage to level one trauma center
 - Without other trauma – Triage per [SAEMS Burn SO](#)
- Neurologic deficit or paralysis

Yes

No

Take to a trauma center. Steps 1 and 2 attempt to identify the most seriously injured patients who should be transported to the nearest level one trauma center.

Assess mechanism of injury and evidence of high energy impact

Step Three

- Falls
 - Adults >20 ft. (one story = 10 ft.)
 - Children >10 ft. or 2 x the height of the child
- High Risk Auto crash
 - Intrusion > 12 in. occupant site, >18 in. any site
 - Ejection (partial or complete) from motorized mode of transport
 - Death in the same passenger compartment
- Auto v. Pedestrian; Bicyclist or equestrian thrown; run over, or with significant (>20mph) impact
- Motorcycle crash > 20 mph
- Hanging
- High voltage electrocution

Yes

No

Transport to closest appropriate trauma center which, depending on the trauma system need not be a level one trauma center.

Assess comorbid factors

Step Four

- Age
 - Older adults: Risk of injury death increases after age 55
 - Children: Should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable trauma center
- Anticoagulation and bleeding disorders
- Pregnancy > 20 weeks
- EMS Provider judgement

Yes

No

Consider transport to closest appropriate trauma center or specific resource. Consider contacting trauma center for online direction regarding destination.

Transport to closest appropriate facility