

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4040
Effective Date: 7/1/2018
Review Date: 6/30/2021

Field Trauma Triage Criteria

I. AUTHORITY

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7, §100236 – 100266, Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, Sections 1798.162, 1798.163 California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Division 2, Chapter 5, Article 1, §1105(c)

II. PURPOSE

- A. The Field Trauma Triage Algorithm is designed to guide the EMS provider in identifying the Major Trauma Patient. The Algorithm will assist in determining the hospital destination for the trauma patient. It uses a four-step decision process, described in the Field Triage Decision Algorithm, to determine the potential for injury severity and whether it is likely that the patient would benefit from Trauma Center level of service.

III. POLICY

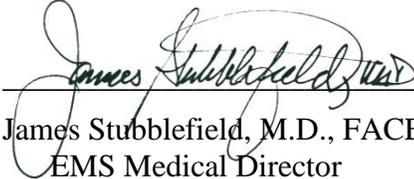
- A. All patients who have sustained trauma will be evaluated by using the Field Triage Decision Algorithm. This evaluation with the Field Triage Criteria Decision Algorithm does not replace an appropriate physical exam.
- B. Any patient that meets the definition of a Major Trauma Victim shall be transported directly to a designated Trauma Center. Pediatric Major Trauma Victims (less than 15) meeting Step 1 and/or Step 2 criteria are to be transported to a designated Pediatric Trauma Center.
- C. The Monterey County EMS Agency designated Trauma Center should be considered as the first option for adult patients meeting trauma criteria who need to be transported to a designated Trauma Center.
- D. The Monterey County EMS Agency designated Trauma Center shall be contacted for Pediatric Major Trauma Victims meeting Step 3 and/or Step 4 criteria for base hospital direction.
- E. Patients shall be transported to a designated Trauma Center via ground ambulance unless such transport is unavailable or if ground transport is significantly longer than air transport (and this difference in time may negatively impact the patient's condition). See EMS Aircraft Operations policy.
- F. Consideration should be given to making Base Station contact with The Monterey County designated Trauma Center to obtain Base Station Physician guidance when the paramedic on scene believes that a trauma victim would benefit from direct transport to a Trauma Center but the Field Triage Decision Algorithm does not direct patient transport to a Trauma Center.

- G. Patients determined to be “in-extremis” shall be transported to the closest Emergency Department.
- H. Consider sending adult family members to the same trauma center as their children when both adult and child family members meet trauma criteria. Adult family members who sustain injuries but do not meet trauma criteria and have a child or children who do meet trauma criteria may be transported to the same hospital as their children.
- I. Pregnant MTVs with more than (20) weeks gestation are to be transported to the closest trauma center with an approved Level III Neonatal ICU (Natividad Medical Center).

IV. PROCEDURE

Use the following Field Triage Decision Algorithm to help determine the destination for trauma patients:

END OF POLICY


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