

# Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 5140  
Effective Date: 7/1/2023  
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## EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT RE-TRIAGE AND RAPID TRANSFER OF TRAUMA PATIENTS TO TRAUMA CENTER

### I. PURPOSE

To allow for the expedited transport and care of the Major Trauma Patient who arrives at a non-Trauma Center Emergency Department.

### II. POLICY

- A. Under the Field Trauma Triage Criteria (Policy #4040), Major Trauma Patients are to be triaged by EMS personnel directly to a Trauma Center. Trauma patients who present at other facilities via EMS or another arrival mode should be considered for re-triage and transfer to a trauma center for definitive care. If patients are seriously injured, the re-triage and transfer process should be done as quickly as possible.
- B. Transferring facilities should use the attached algorithm to assist with identification of those trauma patients who would benefit from care at a Trauma Center.
- C. Transferring facilities should use the process outlined in the attached algorithm to facilitate transfer to the Trauma Center.
- D. The re-triage and transfer of trauma patients will be monitored at Trauma Evaluation Quality Improvement Committee (TEQIC) meetings.
- E. Local Receiving Hospitals shall have:
  1. Written transfer agreements (for both adult and pediatric patients) with an appropriate designated Level I or Level II Trauma Center.
  2. Guidelines for identification of patients who should be considered for transfer to a Trauma Center that are consistent with Monterey County EMS Agency policies and protocols.
  3. A procedure for arranging the transfer of appropriate patients (adults and pediatrics), including but not limited to:
    - a. Notification of the receiving Trauma Center physician.
    - b. Arranging for transport by either ground or air.
- F. The Trauma Center shall have:
  1. Written transfer agreements with:
    - a. The nearest designated Level I Trauma Center.
    - b. An appropriate specialty center providing tertiary-level care for burn injuries.
    - c. An appropriate facility for patients with spinal cord injuries.

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- d. The nearest designated Pediatric Trauma Center.
2. A procedure for arranging the transfer of appropriate patients (adult and pediatric), including but not limited to:
  - a. Notification of the receiving center physician.
  - b. Arranging for transport by either ground or air

### Monterey County Emergency Trauma Re-Triage Procedure – Adult (age 15 and older)

|               |                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Step 1</b> | <b>Determine if patient meets Emergency Trauma Re-Triage Criteria</b>                                                                                              | See Criteria below – Adult patients are age 15 and older.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Step 2</b> | <b>Contact Adult Trauma Center</b>                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Natividad Medical Center</b> – contact the Transfer Center. Tell the transfer center you have a “Red Box Trauma Re-Triage”. Transfer center will arrange report and transport. Phone 855-445-7872; Fax: 916-646-7100</p> <p><b>Santa Clara Valley Medical Center</b><br/>Trauma Report: 408-947-4087<br/>Burn Line: 408-885-6666</p> <p><b>Regional Medical Center</b><br/>Trauma Line: 408-729-2841</p> <p><b>Stanford Medical Center</b><br/>Trauma Line: 800-800-1551</p> |
| <b>Step 3</b> | <b>If not transporting to NMC: Determine appropriate level of transport and arrange transport. (Can be done simultaneously while contacting the Trauma Center)</b> | <p>If within paramedic scope of practice and timely transfer is needed, contact EMS dispatch to request Emergency Interfacility Transfer. Transport should generally arrive within 10 minutes.</p> <p>If exceeds paramedic scope of practice, contact EMS Dispatch for CCT, or arrange transport by Air Ambulance or arrange for nursing staff to accompany paramedic ambulance.</p>                                                                                               |
| <b>Step 4</b> | <b>Prepare patient, diagnostic imaging disc(s), and paperwork for immediate transport.</b>                                                                         | Fax additional paperwork that is not ready at time of transport departure. Do not delay transport.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

#### EMERGENCY TRAUMA RE-TRIAGE CRITERIA – ADULT

- ❖ Systolic blood pressure <90 mmHg
- ❖ Glasgow Coma Scale <13
- ❖ Respiratory rate < 10 or > 29, or need for ventilatory support
- ❖ All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow and knee
- ❖ Chest wall instability or deformity (e.g., flail chest)
- ❖ Two or more proximal long-bone fractures
- ❖ Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity
- ❖ Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
- ❖ Pelvic fractures
- ❖ Open or depressed skull fracture
- ❖ Acute paralysis
- ❖ Provider judgement: Patients who, in the judgment of the evaluating emergency physician, are anticipated to have a high likelihood of requiring emergent life- or limb-saving surgery or other intervention within 2 hours

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| LEVELS OF TRANSPORTATION – SCOPE OF PRACTICE – PROVIDER CONTACT NUMBERS |                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                      |                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                         | ALS                                                                                                                                                     | CCT-RN                                                                               | AIR AMBULANCE                                                                        |
| <b>Provider(s)</b>                                                      | Paramedic (single)                                                                                                                                      | Critical Care – RN & EMT                                                             | RN and Paramedic                                                                     |
| <b>Scope of Care</b>                                                    | Standard paramedic scope. No paralyzing agents or blood products. Can sedate intubated patients with midazolam. Can monitor chest tubes not to suction. | Mechanical ventilation, most medications including paralyzing agents, blood products | Mechanical ventilation, most medications including paralyzing agents, blood products |
| <b>Contact Number</b>                                                   | AMR – 831-796-6446<br>831-796-6447                                                                                                                      | AMR – 831-796-6446<br>831-796-6447                                                   | CALSTAR/ REACH<br>800-252-5050<br>Mercy Air<br>800-222-3456                          |

### Monterey County Emergency Re-Triage Procedure – Pediatric (age 14 and younger)

|               |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Step 1</b> | <b>Determine if patient meets Emergency Trauma Re-Triage Criteria</b>                                                                   | See criteria below – Pediatric patients are <b>younger than age 15</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Step 2</b> | <b>Contact Pediatric Trauma Center</b>                                                                                                  | <b>Santa Clara Valley Medical Center</b><br>Trauma Line: 408-885-6666<br>Burn Line: 408-885-6666<br><b>Stanford Medical Center: 800-800-1551</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Step 3</b> | <b>Determine appropriate level of transport and arrange transport. (Can be done simultaneously while contacting the Trauma Center.)</b> | If within paramedic scope of practice and timely transfer is needed, contact EMS dispatch to request <b>Emergency Interfacility Transfer</b> . Transport should generally arrive within 10 minutes.<br><br>If exceeds paramedic scope of practice, contact EMS Dispatch for CCT (45-minute ETA), or arrange transport by Air Ambulance, or arrange for nursing staff to accompany paramedic ambulance. |
| <b>Step 4</b> | <b>Prepare patient and paperwork for immediate transport.</b>                                                                           | Fax additional paperwork that is not ready at time of transport departure. Do not delay transport.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

#### EMERGENCY TRAUMA RE-TRIAGE CRITERIA – PEDIATRIC

**Blood Pressure/ Perfusion:**

- ❖ Hypotension or tachycardia (based on age-appropriate chart below) or clinical signs of poor perfusion (see below)
- ❖ Need for more than two crystalloid boluses (20 ml/kg each) or need for immediate blood replacement (10 ml/kg)

**GCS/Neurologic**

- ❖ GCS ≤ 13
- ❖ GCS deteriorating by 2 or more during observation
- ❖ Open or depressed skull fracture
- ❖ Cervical spine injury with neurologic deficit

**Anatomic Criteria**

- ❖ Penetrating injuries to head, neck, chest, or abdomen
- ❖ Flail chest
- ❖ Two or more proximal long-bone fractures
- ❖ Crushed, degloved, mangled, or amputated extremity proximal to wrist or ankle
- ❖ Burns with anatomic factors

**Respiratory Criteria**

- ❖ Respiratory failure or intubation required

**Provider judgment**

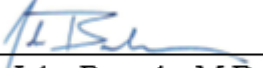
- ❖ Patients who, in the judgment of the evaluating emergency physician, are anticipated to have a high likelihood for emergent life- or limb-saving surgery or other intervention within 2 hours.

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| Pediatric Clinical Signs of Poor Perfusion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |        | Pediatric Glasgow Coma Scale – Verbal Scale < 2 years of age |                    |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Cool, mottled, pale or cyanotic skin                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |        | 5                                                            | Coos and Babbles   |                |
| Low urine output                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        | 4                                                            | Irritable          |                |
| Lethargic                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |        | 3                                                            | Only cries to pain |                |
| Prolonged capillary refill                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |        | 2                                                            | Only moans to pain |                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |        | 1                                                            | None               |                |
| Normal Vitals (Broselow)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |        |                                                              |                    |                |
| AGE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | WEIGHT | HEART RATE                                                   | SYSTOLIC BP        | BROSELOW COLOR |
| <b>Newborn</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 3-5 kg | 80 – 190                                                     | 65-104             | Grey – Pink    |
| <b>1 Year</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 10 Kg  | 80-160                                                       | 70-112             | Purple         |
| <b>3 Years</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 15 Kg  | 80-140                                                       | 75-116             | White          |
| <b>5 Years</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 20 Kg  | 75-130                                                       | 80-112             | Blue           |
| <b>8 Years</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 25 Kg  | 70-120                                                       | 80-112             | Orange         |
| <b>10 Years</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 30 Kg  | 65-115                                                       | 85-126             | Green          |
| <b>Important Pediatric Re-Triage Exceptions:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |                                                              |                    |                |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pregnant patients of any age should be transferred to an adult trauma center.</li> <li>2. Major burns should be preferentially transferred to one of the burn centers.</li> <li>3. Contact hospital first for major extremity injuries with vascular compromise.</li> </ol> |        |                                                              |                    |                |

**END OF POLICY**

  
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 John Beuerle, M.D.  
 EMS Medical Director

  
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 Teresa Rios  
 EMS Bureau Chief