Los Angeles County EMS Agency

Reference No. 506.1 TRAUMA TRIAGE DECISION SCHEME

1 Physiological Assessment

Systolic blood pressure (SBP): < 90 mmHg, or
< 70 mm Hg in infant < 1 yr

Respiratory rate: > 29 breaths/minute (sustained),
< 10 breaths/minute,
< 20 breaths/minute in infant < 1 yr, or
requiring ventilatory support

Cardiopulmonary arrest with penetrating torso trauma

YES → Immediate transport to designated Trauma Center

NO ↓

2 Anatomical Injury Assessment

ALL penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities above the elbow or knee

Blunt head injury associated with: suspected skull fracture, GCS ≤ 14, seizures, unequal pupils, or focal neurological deficit

Spinal injury associated with acute sensory or motor deficit

Blunt chest injury with unstable chest wall (flail chest)

Diffuse abdominal tenderness

Suspected pelvic fracture (excluding isolated hip fracture from a ground level fall)

Extremity injuries with: neurological/vascular compromise and/or
crushed, degloved or mangled;
amputation proximal to the wrist or ankle; or
fractures of ≥ 2 proximal (humerus/femur) long-bones

YES → Immediate transport to designated Trauma Center

NO ↓

3 Mechanism of Injury Assessment

Falls: Adult Patients > 15 feet
Pediatric Patients > 10 feet, or > 3 times the height of the child

Passenger Space Intrusion: > 12 inches into an occupied passenger space

Ejected from vehicle (partial or complete)

Auto v. ped/bicyclist/motorcyclist thrown, run over, or impact > 20 mph

Unenclosed transport crash with significant impact (> 20 mph)

YES → Immediate transport to designated Trauma Center

NO ↓

4 *Trauma Guidelines* Assessment

Passenger Space Intrusion > 18 inches into an unoccupied passenger space

Auto versus pedestrian/bicyclist/motorcyclist (impact ≤ 20 mph)

Injured victims of vehicle crashes with a fatality in the same vehicle

Patients requiring extrication

Vehicle telemetry data consistent with high risk of injury

Injured patients (excluding isolated minor extremity injuries):
on anticoagulation therapy other than aspirin-only; or
with bleeding disorders

YES → In consult with Trauma Center/ Base Hospital, transport to designated Trauma Center is advisable

NO ↓

5 *Special Considerations* Assessment

Adults age > 55 yrs

SBP < 110 mmHg may represent shock after age 65 years

Pregnancy > 20 weeks

Prehospital judgment

YES → Consider transport to designated Trauma Center

If in doubt, transport to the Trauma Center