



SUBJECT: **TRAUMA PATIENT DESTINATION**

PURPOSE: To determine the appropriate trauma patient destination with regards to the trauma center's catchment area.

AUTHORITY: California Code of Regulation, Title 22, Chapter 6

DEFINITIONS:

Trauma Catchment Area: A geographical area surrounding a trauma center strictly defined by streets/freeways or other physical landmarks.

Trauma Patient: An injured patient that meets criteria and/or guidelines, or if in the provider's and/or base hospital's judgment it is in the patient's best interest to be transported to a trauma center.

PRINCIPLES:

- A. Trauma patients that meet criteria, guidelines, or judgment should be transported to the designated trauma center or the designated pediatric trauma center.
- B. Only the Department of Health Services may alter trauma catchment areas.
- C. Patients from incident locations within the strictly defined area shall be transported to the designated trauma center.
- D. To facilitate appropriate trauma team activation, direct contact with the anticipated receiving trauma center should be made whenever possible.


POLICY:

- I. Responsibilities of the Paramedic:
 - A. Maintain current knowledge of trauma centers' catchment areas and which are pediatric trauma centers within their assigned area.
 - B. Paramedics shall contact their designated receiving trauma center on all injured patients meeting trauma triage criteria and/or guidelines or if in the provider's judgment it is in the patient's best interest to be transported to a trauma center. When the receiving trauma center is not a base hospital (only applies to Children's Hospital Los Angeles), paramedics shall contact their assigned base hospital.

EFFECTIVE: 04-15-95
REVISED: 04-01-26
SUPERSEDES: 01-01-23

PAGE 1 OF 2

APPROVED: 
Director, EMS Agency


Medical Director, EMS Agency

II. The following table identifies trauma centers and pediatric trauma centers:

TRAUMA CENTERS	PEDIATRIC TRAUMA CENTERS
Antelope Valley Medical Center	
Dignity Health - California Hospital Medical Center	
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	X
Children's Hospital Los Angeles	X
Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital	
Huntington Hospital	
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center	X
Los Angeles General Medical Center	X
MemorialCare Long Beach Medical Center	X
Dignity Health - Northridge Hospital Medical Center	X
Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center	
Providence Holy Cross Medical Center	
Saint Francis Medical Center	
Dignity Health - St. Mary Medical Center	
Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center	X

III. When the designated trauma center requests diversion to trauma, a trauma patient may be transported to:

- A. The most accessible open trauma center; or
- B. The designated trauma center, when the base hospital determines it is in the patient's best interest, despite the temporary request for trauma diversion.

IV. For multiple casualty incidents refer to Reference No. 519, Management of Multiple Casualty Incidents.

CROSS REFERENCES:

Prehospital Care Manual:

Reference No. 501, **Hospital Directory**

Reference No. 502, **Patient Destination**

Reference No. 503, **Guidelines for Hospitals Requesting Diversion of ALS Units**

Reference No. 506, **Trauma Triage**

Reference No. 510, **Pediatric Patient Destination**

Reference No. 515, **Air Ambulance Trauma Transport**

Reference No. 519, **Management of Multiple Casualty Incidents**