

Tuolumne County Emergency Medical Services Agency
EMS System Policies and Procedures

Policy: Trauma Patient Destination

#531.50

Creation Date: 05-05-04

Medical Director: _____

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EMS Coordinator: _____

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I. AUTHORITY

Division 2.5, California Health and Safety Code, 1797.220 and 1798.163.

II. DEFINITION

- A. “Adult patient” means a patient age 15 years or older.
- B. “Major trauma patient means” a patient who upon assessment meets one or more of the adult or pediatric trauma triage criteria.
- C. “Pediatric patient” means a patient age 14 years or younger.
- D. “Receiving Facility” means a licensed general acute care hospital with a special permit for basic or comprehensive emergency services issued in accordance with California Code of regulations, Title 22, Division 5.
- E. “Trauma Center” means a licensed hospital, accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, which has been designated as a level I, II, III or IV trauma center or as a level I or II pediatric trauma center by a local EMS agency.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to guide pre-hospital and base hospital personnel in determining the appropriate receiving facility for trauma patients.

IV. POLICY

- A. All trauma patients within the Tuolumne County EMS System shall be transported to an appropriate receiving facility as delineated in this policy.
- B. All patients suffering acute injury or suspected acute injury shall be assessed by pre-hospital EMS personnel in accordance with EMS Policy No. 535.00 Adult Trauma Triage Criteria or EMS Policy No. 535.10 Pediatric Trauma Triage Criteria.

C. Destinations for Major Trauma Patients:

1. Adult major trauma patients shall be transported by air ambulance, when available, to a Level II Trauma Center (Doctors Medical Center or Memorial Medical Center) in Stanislaus County, bypassing all other receiving facilities.
 - a. For incidents occurring in Ambulance Zone 6 or west of Highway 108/La Grange Road in Ambulance Zone 5 (Refer to EMS Policy No. 401.00 Ambulance Zones) ground ambulance transport may be used to transport a major trauma patient to a Level II Trauma Center in Stanislaus County, bypassing all other receiving facilities.
 - b. For incidents occurring in Ambulance Zones 1 - 4 and east of Highway 108/La Grange Road in Ambulance Zone 5, when an air ambulance is unavailable or the ETA to rendezvous with an air ambulance exceeds 45 minutes, patients shall be transported by ground ambulance to the closest level III or IV trauma center.
2. Pediatric major trauma patients shall be transported by air ambulance to a Pediatric Trauma Center (UC Davis Medical Center), bypassing all other receiving facilities.
 - a. U.C. Davis Medical Center is the primary destination for all pediatric major trauma patients.
 - b. When an air ambulance is unavailable or the ETA to rendezvous with an air ambulance exceeds 45 minutes, pediatric major trauma patients shall be transported by ground ambulance to the closest level III or IV trauma center.
3. Adult and pediatric patients with major burn injuries shall be transported by air ambulance to the Regional Burn center at the UC Davis Medical Center, bypassing all other receiving facilities when air ambulance transport is available within 45 minutes. Major burn injuries are defined as:
 - a. 2° (partial thickness) or 3° (full thickness) burns that exceed 15% total body surface area;
 - b. 2° (partial thickness) or 3° (full thickness) burns to face, hands, feet, major joints, perineum or genitals;

- c. Chemical burns that exceed 15% total body surface area;
- D. Destinations for Non-Major Trauma Patients:
 - 1. Trauma patients who do not meet triage criteria as a major trauma patient shall be transported to the receiving facility of their choice or to the closest appropriate receiving facility.
- E. Special Considerations:
 - 1. The following patients should be transported to the closest appropriate receiving facility:
 - a. Any unstable or unmanageable airway as evidenced by the inability to ventilate the patient via bag-valve-mask device with or without an ALS airway;
 - b. Any patient with CPR in progress.
- F. Trauma Center Notifications:
 - 1. When necessary, the Tuolumne Operational Area Control Facility (CF or DCF) shall serve as on-line medical control for major trauma patients being transported by air or ground ambulance to a trauma center located outside of Tuolumne Operational Area.
 - 2. The transporting ambulance or air ambulance shall make contact with the receiving trauma center as-soon-as-possible after transport has been initiated in order to assist the trauma center in determining the appropriate level of trauma team activation.
 - a. For those patients being transported to a level II trauma center in Stanislaus County, the transporting ambulance or air ambulance shall notify the Stanislaus County Control Facility about the major trauma patient from Tuolumne County and the trauma center destination.