Policy: **Adult Trauma Triage Criteria** **#535.00**

		Creation Date:	5-5-2004
Medical Director:	_____	Revision Date:	8-24-2011
EMS Coordinator:	_____	Review Date:	08-2016

I. AUTHORITY

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

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 newborn through 14 years.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the EMS system standard for identification and triage of adult patients suffering acute injury or suspected acute injury.

IV. POLICY

A. All adult patients suffering acute injury or suspected acute injury shall be assessed by EMS personnel using the Adult Trauma Triage Criteria.

B. Adult Trauma Triage Criteria

1. Physiologic
   a. Systolic blood pressure < 90;
   b. Respiratory Rate < 10 or > 30 breaths/min;
   c. Glasgow Coma Score <14;

2. Anatomic
   a. All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow and knee
   b. Flail chest
   c. Two or more proximal long bone fractures

d. Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity
e. Amputation proximal to wrist and ankle
f. Suspected pelvic fracture
g. Open or depressed skull fracture
h. Paralysis

3. Mechanism of injury
   a. Falls > 20 feet (one story = 10 feet)
   b. High Risk Automobile Crash
      i) Intrusion > 12 inches at occupant site
      ii) Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile
      iii) Unrestrained rollover
      iv) Vehicle telemetry data consistent with high risk of injury (if available)
   c. Automobile vs. Pedestrian/Bicyclist
      i) Pedestrian/bicyclist thrown or run over
      ii) Significant (> 20 mph) impact
   d. Motorcycle Crash > 20 mph

4. Special Considerations
   a. Older adults: Risk of injury/death increases after age 55
   b. Anticoagulation and bleeding disorders
   c. Burns- Refer to burn center triage criteria
   d. Death in same passenger compartment
   e. End stage renal disease requiring dialysis
   f. Pregnancy > 20 weeks with complaint of injury
   g. EMS provider judgment

A. Patients meeting one or more of Sections 1 - 3 the Adult Trauma Triage Criteria shall be treated as a major trauma patient.

B. Section 4, Special considerations, should be used to raise the index of suspicion; patients should have tangible signs and symptoms of injury. Decisions to transport to a trauma center should not be based on special considerations alone.

C. Major trauma patients shall be transported to a designated trauma center or receiving hospital in accordance with EMS Policy No. 531.50 Trauma Patient Destination.