

# VC EMS TRAINING BULLETIN

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IMPROVING QUALITY...CONTINUOUSLY



## Ventura County Emergency Medical Services Agency

### Trauma Triage Step 4 SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

AUTHORITY: VC EMS POLICY 1405 Trauma Triage and Destination Criteria

**For Step 4 Trauma Triage Patients:  
Make Base Hospital Contact with your regular base.  
ALS work-up ONLY if necessary due to the patient's condition.**

Step 4 considerations are part of the trauma triage decision scheme to help paramedics consider which of their patients, who do not otherwise triage into Steps 1-3, might

benefit from transport to the trauma center. These include patients who might have serious but hidden injuries, or patients older than 65 who have significant injuries and DO NOT triage into Steps 1-3.

For Step 4 patients, make base hospital contact with your regular base hospital.

**A Step 4 destination consult call to the MICN does not automatically transform the call into "ALS," and it's not necessary to do an ALS workup (IV, monitor, etc.) on every Step 4 patient for whom you call the MICN.** Describe your patient and circumstances to the MICN, and together, you can make decisions regarding destination hospital and if BLS care is appropriate.

To contact us:  
VENTURA COUNTY EMS AGENCY  
Phone: 805-981-5301  
Fax: 805-981-5300  
Web Page: [www.vchca.org/ph/ems](http://www.vchca.org/ph/ems)

- 4.1 Age > 65
- 4.2 Head injury with loss of consciousness AND on warfarin (Coumadin)
- 4.3 Burns with trauma mechanism
- 4.4 Time sensitive extremity injury (open fracture, neurovascular compromise)
- 4.5 Pregnancy > 20 weeks with known or suspected abdominal trauma
- 4.6 Prehospital care provider or MICN judgment

It's fine to use the phrase "**Step 4 consult**" in both your base hospital call-in and your EMEDS documentation. In fact, it helps the MICN, as well as the PCC's data collection later, to know that you're specifically calling with a Step 4 destination consult.

Questions? Call us!