



Ventura County Field Triage Decision Scheme

For patients with visible or suspected traumatic injuries

STEP 1

Measure vital signs and level of consciousness

- 1.1 Glasgow Coma Scale**
- Unable to follow commands (GCS motor < 6)
- 1.2 Systolic Blood Pressure**
- Age 10-64 years SBP < 90 mmHg or HR > SBP
 - Age 65 years and older SBP < 110 mmHg or HR > SBP
 - Age 0-9 years SBP < 70 mmHg + (2 x age years)
- 1.3 Respiratory**
- RR < 10 or > 29 breaths/min
 - Respiratory distress or need for respiratory support
 - Room-air pulse oximetry < 90%

Yes

Contact base trauma center
Transport to trauma center

STEP 2

Assess anatomy of injury

- 2.1** Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, or extremities proximal to elbow or knee
2.2 Chest wall instability, deformity, or suspected flail chest
2.3 Suspected two or more proximal long-bone fractures (femur, humerus)
2.4 Crushed, degloved, mangled or pulseless extremity
2.5 Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
2.6 Suspected pelvic fracture
2.7 Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture
2.8 Acute paralysis, extremity weakness, or sensory loss possibly due to spinal cord injury
2.9 Seat belt injury: significant bruising to neck, chest, or abdomen
2.10 Diffuse abdominal tenderness because of blunt trauma
2.11 Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure

Yes

Contact base trauma center
Transport to trauma center

STEP 3

Assess mechanism of injury and evidence of high-energy impact

- 3.1 Falls**
- Adults: Height > 10 feet
 - < 14 years old: Height > 10 feet or two times the patient height
- 3.2 High-risk auto crash**
- Intrusion (Including roof) > 12" patient site **or** > 18" any occupant site
 - Ejection: partial or complete from automobile
 - Death in same passenger compartment
 - Age 0-9 years unrestrained or in unsecured child safety seat
- 3.3 Auto vs. Pedestrian/Bicycle** thrown, run over, with significant impact or > 20 mph
3.4 Rider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact or > 20 mph (e.g., motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.)

Yes

Contact base trauma center for destination decision

STEP 4

Assess special patient or system considerations

- 4.1** Age 65 years and older
4.2 Low level falls with significant head impact in ages < 5 years or 65 years and older
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
4.7 Amputation or partial amputation of any part of the hand¹
4.8 Penetrating injury to the globe of the eye, at risk for vision loss
4.9 Anticoagulation use²

Yes

Contact regular catchment base hospital

Consider transport to trauma center or specific resource hospital

¹See picture
²See list

Transport to closest ED or by patient preference