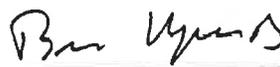


SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION AND TRANSPORTATION
OF THE TRAUMA CENTER CANDIDATE

Date: 7/1/08

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- I. **Authority:** Division 2.5, Health and Safety Code, Sections 1798, 1798.102 and 1798.163.
- II. **Purpose:** To establish criteria for identification of trauma center candidates to be transported to a designated trauma center.
- III. **Definitions:**
- A. **Adult** – Any trauma candidate known or appearing to be 15 years of age or older.
- B. **Pediatric** – Any trauma candidate known or appearing to be 14 years of age or less.
- IV. **Policy:**
- A. The base hospital physician/MICN shall use the following criteria to identify a trauma center candidate and the most appropriate destination for transport (see Trauma Decision Tree Algorithm attachment T-460(a)-01):
1. Physiologic Criteria: Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) < 14, Abnormal Vital Signs, Appearance, Work of Breathing and/or Circulation.
 2. Anatomic Criteria: Patients with significant anatomic injury.
 3. Mechanism of Injury: Patients sustaining a significant mechanism of injury, which may be indicative of severe underlying injury.
- B. Transportation:
1. The adult patient who is identified as a trauma candidate will be transported to the most appropriate designated adult trauma center.
 2. The pediatric patient who is identified as a trauma candidate will be

Approved:

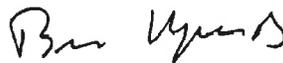

EMS Medical Director

SUBJECT: IDENTIFICATION AND TRANSPORTATION
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- transported to the designated pediatric trauma center (Children's).
3. If there is a single ambulance (air/ground) with both a pediatric trauma center candidate AND an adult trauma center candidate, the ambulance should deliver the more critical patient to the appropriate facility. If both patients are critical, or if there are questions, both may be delivered to the designated adult trauma center. Field personnel should consider splitting the team using additional ALS transport vehicles, or air medical resources to transport the pediatric patient to a pediatric designated trauma facility and the adult to the catchment area trauma facility.
 4. If the designated pediatric trauma center is "on bypass", pediatric trauma candidates should be delivered to the Level 1 adult designated trauma facility (UCSD).
- C. The Trauma Decision Tree Algorithm (attached) is an educational guideline to assist in identification of the trauma candidate and does not exclude a patient from identification and transportation to a designated trauma center if in the judgment of the base hospital, it is in the patient's best interest.
- D. All Prehospital Personnel will be trained in trauma triage as part of standard agency/facility orientation curriculum and upon any changes in trauma triage criteria.

Approved:


EMS Medical Director

TRAUMA DECISION TREE ALGORITHM

