### County of San Diego

#### Trauma Decision Algorithm

**ASSESS VITAL SIGNS/LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS**

- Glasgow Coma Scale <14
- Systolic Blood Pressure <90 mmHg
- Respiratory Rate <10 or ≥29 (adult), <20 for infant < 1 year, or need for ventilatory support
- **Peds:** Abnormal Appearance &/or Abnormal Work of Breathing &/or Abnormal Circulation

**YES**

- Call Trauma Base, Transport to appropriate Trauma Center as Major Trauma Victim (MTV)

**NO**

**ASSESS ANATOMY OF INJURY**

- All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, or extremities proximal to elbow or knee
- Chest wall instability or deformity (e.g., flail chest)
- Two or more proximal long-bone fractures
- Crush injury, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity
- Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
- Pelvic fractures
- Open or depressed skull fracture
- Paralysis
- Neurologic/Vascular deficit of extremities
- Tourniquet applied to traumatic injury

**YES**

- Call Trauma Base, Transport to appropriate Trauma Center as Major Trauma Victim (MTV)

**NO**

**ASSESS MECHANISM OF INJURY**

- Fall >3 times patient’s height or ≥15 feet
- High Risk Auto Crash:
  - Intrusion, including roof >12 inches, ≥18 inches any site
  - Ejection (partial or complete) from vehicle
  - Death in same passenger compartment
  - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with a high risk of injury
  - Vehicle rollover with unrestrained patient
- Auto vs pedestrian/bicyclist thrown, run over, or with significant (>20 mph) impact
- Motorcycle crash >20 mph
- Exposure to blast or explosion
- Combination trauma with burns

**YES**

- Call Trauma Base, Transport to appropriate Trauma Center as Major Trauma Victim (MTV)

**NO**

**ASSESS SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- Age <5 or ≥55
- Low impact mechanisms (e.g., ground level falls) >65 years
- Bleeding disorders
- Anticoagulant or antiplatelet therapy, e.g., warfarin or clopidogrel, except ASA
- Pregnancy ≥ 20 weeks
- Poor baseline physiologic reserve, e.g., severe cardiac and/or respiratory disease
- Extrication time ≥20 minutes
- EMS provider judgment

**YES**

- Call Base, transport to appropriate Trauma Center or Non-Designated Trauma Center Hospital per BHO
- MTV activation not required

**NO**

- Re-evaluation with medical direction and transport to appropriate facility

**When in doubt, take patient to appropriate trauma center**

*Rev: 5/1/18*