

**Trauma Transfer Procedure**

**DO NOT DELAY! Initiate the process immediately when you anticipate a transfer. Transfers can always be cancelled.**

**STEP 1** Contact receiving trauma center and confirm that the receiving physician will accept the patient.

**STEP 2** Determine appropriate type of transport using criteria below.

**STEP 3** Initiate response by requesting "Code 3 Trauma Transfer" from the appropriate ambulance provider:
- For **EMERGENCY TRANSFER PATIENTS** use the County Communications direct line. When a 911 ambulance is used the patient must always go to the closest Trauma Center.
- For **URGENT TRANSFER PATIENTS** call your contracted ambulance provider directly. When a non-911 ambulance is used the destination is at the discretion of the sending physician.

**STEP 4** Prepare the patient and any paperwork for immediate transfer of care when the ambulance arrives.

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**EMERGENCY TRANSFER criteria for patients requiring immediate transfer by 911 ambulance:**

- **Blood Pressure:**
  - BP of <90
  - Decrease in BP by 30 mmHg after 2 liters of crystalloid solution

- **Head Injury with blunt injury**

- **Major extremity injuries**
  - Two or more long bone fractures
  - Amputations requiring re-implantation:
    - Transfer to Stanford or Regional if patient is ≤ 15 years
    - Transfer to Stanford if patient is < 15 years

- **Chest**
  - Major chest wall injury with >3 rib fractures and/or pulmonary contusion
  - Wide mediastinum or other signs of great vessel injury—Transfer to Stanford

- **Central Nervous System**
  - Penetrating thoracic or abdominal trauma
  - Major injury to more than two body regions
  - Signs of Hypo-perfusion—Lactate >4 or Base Deficit >4

- **Cardiac Injury**
  - Burns with associated injuries—Transfer to Valley Medical Center
  - Major injury to more than two body regions

- **Pelvis/Abdomen**
  - Pelvic ring disruption
  - Solid organ injury confirmed by CT or ultrasound demonstrating abdominal fluid

- **Spinal cord or major vertebral injury**

- **Multiple -System Injury**

- **GCS <14 with abnormal CT infarction**

- **Children < 6 y/o—Transfer patients <15 y/o to Stanford or Valley Medical Center**

- **Adults > 65 y/o**

- **Insulin dependent diabetes**

- **Morbid obesity**

- **Cardiac or respiratory disease**

- **Immunosuppression**

- **Pregnancy >22 weeks gestation—Transfer to Stanford or Valley Medical Center**

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**URGENT TRANSFER criteria for patients not requiring immediate transfer by 911 ambulance:**

- **Central Nervous System**
  - Penetrating injury or open fracture to head
  - GCS <14 with abnormal CT
  - Spinal cord or major vertebral injury

- **Chest**
  - Major chest wall injury with >3 rib fractures and/or pulmonary contusion
  - Wide mediastinum or other signs of great vessel injury—Transfer to Stanford

- **Cardiac Injury**
  - Burns with associated injuries—Transfer to Valley Medical Center
  - Major injury to more than two body regions

- **Pelvis/Abdomen**
  - Pelvic ring disruption
  - Solid organ injury confirmed by CT or ultrasound demonstrating abdominal fluid

- **Spinal cord or major vertebral injury**

- **GCS <14 with abnormal CT infarction**

- **Children < 6 y/o—Transfer patients <15 y/o to Stanford or Valley Medical Center**

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- **Insulin dependent diabetes**

- **Morbid obesity**

- **Cardiac or respiratory disease**

- **Immunosuppression**

- **Pregnancy >22 weeks gestation—Transfer to Stanford or Valley Medical Center**

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**Types of Transportation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Capabilities</th>
<th>Typical ETA</th>
<th>Providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>System ALS</strong></td>
<td>Advanced Life Support using 911 resources</td>
<td>Consider only for cases meeting Emergency criteria above</td>
<td>8-10 minutes</td>
<td>County EMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALS</td>
<td>Advanced Life Support</td>
<td>Standard Paramedic Scope of practice</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
<td>Falck Falck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Ambulance</td>
<td>CALSTAR: 2 RNs Life Flight: 2 RNs</td>
<td>Critical Care RN</td>
<td>ETA can be extended and is weather dependent</td>
<td>CALSTAR Stanford Life Flight</td>
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</tbody>
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**Contact trauma hospital call center to arrange for transfer:**

Regional Medical Center 855.762.6375 | Valley Medical Center 408.947.4087 | Stanford 800.800.1551

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**Ambulance Provider Dispatch Phone Numbers:**

Bayshore 650.525.9700 | Falck 800.344.9955 | NORCAL 866.755.3400
ProTransport-1 800.650.4003 | Royal 888.510.3687 | AMR 877.244.4890
Silicon Valley 868.551.9437 | WestMed 888.331.1420

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**Reference # 801**

Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services
Prehospital Care Manual – Reference # 801
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