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.

### Trauma Transfer Criteria

**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 blown pupil
- Penetrating thoracic or abdominal trauma
- Patient requiring immediate evaluation/resuscitation per transferring physician.

**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
- Penetrating chest injury
- Major extremity injuries
  - Fracture/dislocation with loss of distal pulses and/or ischemia
  - Open long bone fractures
  - 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
- Pelvis/Abdomen
  - Pelvic ring disruption
  - Solid organ injury confirmed by CT or ultrasound demonstrating abdominal fluid
  - Burns with associated injuries—Transfer to Valley Medical Center
  - Major injury to more than two body regions
  - Signs of Hypo-perfusion—Lactate >4 or Base Deficit >4
  - Co-morbid factors
    - Adults > 65 y/o
    - Children < 6 y/o—Transfer patients <15 y/o to Stanford or Valley Medical Center
    - Insulin dependent diabetes
    - Morbid obesity
    - Cardiac or respiratory disease
    - Immunosuppression
    - Pregnancy >22 weeks gestation—Transfer to Stanford or Valley Medical Center

### Types of Transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Capabilities</th>
<th>Typical ETA</th>
<th>Providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALS</td>
<td>Advanced Life Support using 911 resources</td>
<td>Standard Paramedic Scope of practice</td>
<td>Consider only for cases meeting Emergency criteria above</td>
<td>8-10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLS</td>
<td>Basic Life Support</td>
<td>Standard Paramedic Scope of practice</td>
<td>Standard ACLS capabilities and medications, No blood products within 30 min.</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCT-RN</td>
<td>Critical Care Transport: 1 RN</td>
<td>Critical Care RN</td>
<td>Mechanical ventilation and most medications.</td>
<td>30-45 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Ambulance</td>
<td>CALSTAR: 2 RNs</td>
<td>Critical Care RN</td>
<td>RN with expanded scope of practice, ETA can be extended and is weather dependent</td>
<td>45 Minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact trauma hospital Emergency Department before calling for a 911 ambulance:

- Regional Medical Center 408.729.2841 | Valley Medical Center 408.947.4087 | Stanford 650.723.7337

Contact trauma hospital call center to arrange for transfer:

- County EMS

### Ambulance Provider Dispatch Phone Numbers:

- Bayside 650.525.9700 | Falck 800.344.9955 | NORCAL 866.755.3400
- ProTransport-1 800.650.4003 | Royal 888.510.3667 | Rural Metro IFT 408.708.9010
- Silicon Valley 888.551.9437 | United 855.525.1277 | Westmed 888.331.1420

Santa Clara County Emergency Medical Services
Prehospital Care Manual – Reference # 801
Page 1 of 1