

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

OPERATIONS
Patient Destination

SUBJECT: Pediatric Trauma Triage Criteria
POLICY NUMBER: 550.04

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SUPERSEDES: NONE

APPROVED: _____
EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

I. Policy

The intent of this policy is to triage appropriate individuals to an acute care hospital that meets additional criteria as specializing in the care of pediatric trauma patients and has been designated by the San Joaquin County EMS Agency.

II. Procedures

Patients with any one or more of the following, who are 14 years of age or less, after consultation with the San Joaquin General Hospital (SJGH) base physician, may be transported to a designated Pediatric Trauma Center using the most expeditious method available:

- A. Criteria for direct transport¹ of pediatric trauma patients to a Pediatric Trauma Center²:
1. Physiologic
 - a. Initial systolic blood pressure (SBP) <80 (<70 if under 6 years of age) or brachial pulse not palpable;
 - b. Requires advanced or continuous airway support;
 - c. Glasgow Coma Score (MOTOR) <5 (not localizing noxious stimuli).
 2. Anatomic
 - a. Penetrating injuries (known GSW/SW) to the head, neck, chest or torso, or penetrating injuries proximal to the elbow and knee with vascular compromise;
 - b. Rib fractures causing flail chest;
 - c. Burns - 20% or more of the body surface area (15% or more if < age 10);
 - d. Traumatic paralysis;
 - e. Pelvic fractures;
 - f. Limb amputation or near amputation proximal to wrist/ankle.
 3. Mechanism of Injury – Crushing injury to head or torso (e.g., run over by a vehicle).
- B. The SJGH-Base physician may consider the following circumstances in determining triage to a Pediatric Trauma Center
1. Two or more long bones (humerus, femur) fractures;
 2. Ejection from a moving vehicle (automobile, motorcycle, etc.);
 3. Falls > 3 times the height of the child;
 4. Auto/pedestrian or auto/bicycle injury with >5 mph impact speed;
 5. Vehicular crashes requiring extrication time of >20 minutes;

6. Death in the same passenger compartment;
7. Vehicular rollovers;
8. High speed vehicular crashes with significant passenger space intrusion;

- C. The SJGH-Base physician may divert to the closest paramedic receiving facility in the following circumstances:
1. Pulseless, nonbreathing following trauma;
 2. Unstable or unmanageable airway;
 3. Rapidly deteriorating vital signs;

San Joaquin General Hospital Base shall contact the Pediatric Trauma Center to inform them of their incoming patient upon obtaining such information from field personnel.

- D. Request for Air Ambulance dispatch shall be made immediately after identifying pediatric patients (as described above) who are in non-simultaneous dispatch areas (as described on the "Ambulance Dispatch Zones," map) to rendezvous at the nearest rendezvous point or hospital-based helipad as appropriate.
- E. In the event no air ambulance is available (including weather restrictions) patients shall be transported according to the next, most appropriate triage criteria.

III. In order for an acute care facility to be considered a Pediatric Trauma Center, the following conditions shall be met:

- A. Maintain designation as a pediatric intensive care unit by the California Children's Services.
- B. Maintain designation as a Pediatric Trauma Center according to agreements, policies and procedures as set forth by the local EMS Agency having jurisdiction over that facility.
- C. A written agreement with the San Joaquin EMS Agency to accept all patients treated by EMS personnel, and not to transfer them unless said transfer is medically in the best interest of the patient.

- 1: "Direct transport" means emergency transport directly from the scene of injury to the Pediatric Trauma Center usually by means of air ambulance or ALS air rescue. This may involve meeting an air ambulance at a hospital-based helipad without stopping in the emergency department, or at other appropriate landing zones.
- 2: The pediatric trauma center will accept patients through age 18. This policy applies to younger children, but the age limit may be waived by base station physician order.