

# Maryland Trauma Decision Tree

When in doubt, take patient to an appropriate Trauma Center

## Category Alpha

Measure vital signs and level of consciousness and assess for major injury

- GCS less than or equal to 13
- Systolic BP less than 90 mmHg (Adult) less than 60 mmHg (Ped)
- Respiratory rate less than 10 or greater than 29 (less than 20 in infant age less than 1 year) or need for ventilatory support

YES

Transport to Trauma Center or Specialty Center per protocol; Alert trauma team; consider helicopter transport if quicker and of clinical benefit.

NO

Assess for other injuries.

## Category Bravo

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or more proximal long-bone fractures                | <input type="checkbox"/> Crushed, degloved, mangled or pulseless extremity                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pelvic fracture   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Open or depressed skull fracture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Paralysis (spine) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chest wall instability or deformity (eg. flail chest) | <input type="checkbox"/> Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso or extremities proximal to elbow & knee | <input type="checkbox"/>                   |

YES

Transport to Trauma Center or Specialty Center per protocol; Alert trauma team; consider helicopter transport if quicker and of clinical benefit.

NO

Evaluate for evidence of mechanism of injury and high-energy impact.

## Category Charlie

- High Risk Auto Crash
  - Intrusion (including roof) > 12 in. occupant site; or > 18 in. any site
  - Ejection (partial or complete) from vehicle
  - Death in same passenger compartment
  - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with high risk of injury
  - Rollover without restraint
  - Auto v. pedestrian/bicyclist thrown, run over, or with significant (> 20 mph) impact
  - Motorcycle crash > 20 mph
- Falls
  - Adult: Greater than 20 feet (one story is 10 feet)
  - Peds: Greater than 10 feet or 3 times the child's height
- Exposure to blast or explosion

YES

Transport to trauma center; Alert trauma team. Patients within a **30 minute drive time** of closest appropriate trauma/specialty center shall go by ground unless there are extenuating circumstances. Receiving Trauma Center Medical Consultation required when considering whether helicopter transport is of clinical benefit.

NO

Evaluate for other considerations.

## Category Delta

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Older Adults                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Risk of injury/ death increases after 55</li> <li>▪ SBP less than 110 may indicate shock after age 65</li> <li>▪ Low-impact mechanisms (eg. ground-level fall) may result in severe injury</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Children (Should be triaged to Pediatric Trauma Center)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Burns                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Without trauma mechanism, Triage to Burn Center</li> <li>▪ With trauma mechanism, triage to Trauma Center</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy &gt;20 weeks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> EMS Provider judgement</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Anticoagulants and bleeding disorders (Patients with head injury are at high risk for rapid deterioration)</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

YES

Consider medical direction and transport to trauma center. Patients within a **30 minute drive time** of closest appropriate trauma/specialty center shall go by ground unless there are extenuating circumstances. Receiving Trauma Center Medical Consultation required when considering whether helicopter transport is of clinical benefit.

NO

Transport according to protocol.