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Guidelines for Use of Air Medical Services and Transport of the Patient to the Trauma Center

Air Medical Dispatch Criteria

General Criteria

- Patient requires critical care life support
- Clinical condition requires that out of hospital time be minimal
- Potential delays associated with ground transport may worsen the patient's status
- The patient is located in an area which is inaccessible to ground traffic
- The patient requires specific or timely treatment not available at the referring agency
- The patient's clinical condition requires that care be given by a physician at the receiving hospital who is intimately familiar with the patient's history
- The use of local ground transport team would leave the local area without adequate EMS coverage

Physiologic and Hemodynamic Criteria

- Patient is Unconscious / Unresponsive to voice commands
- Respiratory or Airway difficulty
- Decreased level of consciousness (GCS <13)
- Penetrating injury to head, neck, torso or proximal extremity
- Two or more proximal long bone fractures
- Severe, uncontrollable hemorrhage
- Hypotension
- Unexplained tachycardia
- Depressed or open skull fracture
- Unstable pelvic fracture
- Flail chest or chest wall instability
- New onset paralysis or suspected spinal cord injury
- Revised Trauma Score <11
- Pediatric Trauma Score <9



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- Amputation of limb proximal to wrist or ankle
- Trauma with concurrent burns of >15% BSA

Mechanism of Injury

- Vehicle roll-over
- Victim ejected from vehicle
- Auto vs Pedestrian or bicycle
- Pedestrian thrown or run over
- Scalping or degloving injury
- Death of occupant in same vehicle in crash
- Extrication time in excess of 20 minutes
- Fall from > 20 feet (>10 feet for child)
- Victim of high-speed motor vehicle crash: Adult >40 MPH / Child >20 MPH
- Major auto deformity, intrusion into passenger compartment
- Any motorcycle crash, especially if ejected

Miscellaneous Indications

- Multiple victims
- Difficult ground access
- Farm accident
- Aircraft Mishap
- Trauma victims with extremes of age <5 y/o or >55 Y/O
- Injured patient with underlying lung or cardiac disease
- Injured patient who is pregnant
- Injured patient who is immunosuppressed
- Injured patient with bleeding disorder or who is on anticoagulation medication
- Near drowning
- Major burns (without associated traumatic injury)