

# Prehospital Trauma Triage Destination Procedure

## Change Log

The Washington State Prehospital Trauma Triage Destination Procedure was updated in 2023 to incorporate the latest recommendations from the 2021 National Guideline for the Field Triage of Injured Patients. Below is a table that highlights the old (2011) criteria and the newly updated criteria (2023).

2011 Criteria		2023 Criteria
Algorithm based in four step categories.	<i>NEW</i>	Tiered format with two main categories – Red Criteria: High Risk for Serious Injury and Yellow Criteria: Moderate Risk for Serious Injury.
Step Categories: Vital Signs & LOC, Anatomy of Injury, MOI & Evidence of High Energy Impact, Special Considerations.	<i>NEW</i>	Tiered Categories: High Risk Criteria – Injury Patterns and Mental Status & Vital Signs; Moderate Risk Criteria – Mechanism of Injury and EMS Judgement
<b>Injury Patterns</b>		
	<i>NEW</i>	Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure.
All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow or knee	<i>UPDATED</i>	Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and proximal extremities.
Open or depressed skull fracture	<i>UPDATED</i>	Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture
Paralysis	<i>UPDATED</i>	Suspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory loss
Chest wall instability or deformity e.g., flail chest	<i>UPDATED</i>	Chest wall instability, deformity, or suspected flail chest
Pelvic fractures	<i>UPDATED</i>	Suspected pelvic fracture
Two or more proximal long-bone fractures	<i>UPDATED</i>	Suspected fracture of two or more proximal long bones
Crushed, degloved, mangled, or puleless extremity	<i>UNCHANGED</i>	Crushed, degloved, mangled, or puleless extremity
Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle	<i>UNCHANGED</i>	Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
<b>Mental Status &amp; Vital Signs</b>		
	<i>NEW</i>	Respiratory distress or need for respiratory support
	<i>NEW</i>	Room-air pulse oximetry < 90%
	<i>NEW</i>	HR > SBP
GCS <13	<i>UPDATED</i>	GCS motor calculation only (motor GCS <6)
SBP <90 mmHg	<i>UPDATED</i>	Age 0-9: SBP < 70mm Hg + (2 x age in years)
RR < 10 or > 29 breaths/min	<i>UNCHANGED</i>	RR < 10 or > 29 breaths/min
Adult 10-64 years: SBP < 90 mmHg	<i>UNCHANGED</i>	Adult 10-64 years: SBP < 90 mmHg
Age ≥ 65 years: SBP < 110 mmHg	<i>UNCHANGED</i>	Age ≥ 65 years: SBP < 110 mmHg

	<b>Mechanism of Injury</b>	
	<i>NEW</i>	Child (0-9) unrestrained or in unsecure child safety seat
	<i>NEW</i>	Need for extrication for entrapped patient
Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile	<i>UPDATED</i>	Rider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact (e.g., Motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.)
Auto vs. pedestrian/bicyclist thrown, run over, or with significant (>20 mph) impact	<i>UPDATED</i>	Pedestrian/bicycle rider thrown, run over, or with significant impact
Adults: >20 feet (one story is equal to 10 feet) Children: >10 feet or two or three times the height of the child	<i>UPDATED</i>	Fall from height > 10 feet (all ages)
High Risk Auto Crash <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partial or complete ejection</li> <li>- Significant intrusion (including roof)</li> <li>- &gt;12 inches occupant site</li> <li>- &gt;18 inches any site</li> <li>- Death in passenger compartment</li> <li>- Vehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injury</li> </ul>	<i>UNCHANGED</i>	High Risk Auto Crash <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partial or complete ejection</li> <li>- Significant intrusion (including roof)</li> <li>- &gt;12 inches occupant site</li> <li>- &gt;18 inches any site</li> <li>- Death in passenger compartment</li> <li>- Vehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injury</li> </ul>
	<b>EMS Judgment</b>	
	<i>NEW</i>	Low-level falls in young children (age ≤ 5 years) or older adults (age ≥ 65 years) with significant head impact
	<i>NEW</i>	Suspicion of child abuse
	<i>NEW</i>	Special, high-resource healthcare needs
Anticoagulants and bleeding disorders: Patients with head injury are at high risk for rapid deterioration	<i>UPDATED</i>	Anticoagulant use
Pregnancy > 20 weeks	<i>UNCHANGED</i>	Pregnancy > 20 weeks
Burns in conjunction with trauma	<i>UNCHANGED</i>	Burns in conjunction with trauma
Children should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable trauma centers	<i>UNCHANGED</i>	Children should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable trauma centers

[2021 National Guideline for Field Triage of Injured Patients](#)

[2023 Prehospital Trauma Triage Destination Procedure](#)



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