# National Guideline for the Field Triage of Injured Patients

## RED CRITERIA
### High Risk for Serious Injury

### Injury Patterns
- Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and proximal extremities
- Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture
- Suspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory loss
- Chest wall instability, deformity, or suspected flail chest
- Suspected pelvic fracture
- Suspected fracture of two or more proximal long bones
- Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity
- Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
- Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure

### Mental Status & Vital Signs
- **All Patients**
  - Unable to follow commands (motor GCS < 6)
  - RR < 10 or > 29 breaths/min
  - Respiratory distress or need for respiratory support
  - Room-air pulse oximetry < 90%
- **Age 0–9 years**
  - SBP < 70mm Hg + (2 x age in years)
- **Age 10–64 years**
  - SBP < 90 mmHg or
  - HR > SBP
- **Age ≥ 65 years**
  - SBP < 110 mmHg or
  - HR > SBP

Patients meeting any one of the above RED criteria should be transported to the highest-level trauma center available within the geographic constraints of the regional trauma system.

## YELLOW CRITERIA
### Moderate Risk for Serious Injury

### Mechanism of Injury
- High-Risk Auto Crash
  - Partial or complete ejection
  - Significant intrusion (including roof)
    - >12 inches occupant site OR
    - >18 inches any site OR
  - Need for extrication for entrapped patient
  - Death in passenger compartment
  - Child (age 0–9 years) unrestrained or in unsecured child safety seat
  - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injury
- Rider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact (eg, motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.)
- Pedestrian/bicycle rider thrown, run over, or with significant impact
- Fall from height > 10 feet (all ages)

### EMS Judgment
- Consider risk factors, including:
  - Low-level falls in young children (age ≤ 5 years) or older adults (age ≥ 65 years) with significant head impact
  - Anticoagulant use
  - Suspicion of child abuse
  - Special, high-resource healthcare needs
  - Pregnancy > 20 weeks
  - Burns in conjunction with trauma
  - Children should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable centers

If concerned, take to a trauma center.

Patients meeting any one of the YELLOW CRITERIA WHO DO NOT MEET RED CRITERIA should be preferentially transported to a trauma center, as available within the geographic constraints of the regional trauma system (need not be the highest-level trauma center).