

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**Office Of Emergency Medical Services**  
**67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752**  
**Statewide Trauma Field Triage Criteria and Point of Entry Plan for Adult and Pediatric Patients**

**In all trauma cases with prolonged transport times, consider activating the appropriate air ambulance service. For patients being transported by air ambulance, transport to a level 1 trauma center with helipad facilities.**

**RED CRITERIA**  
**High Risk for Serious Injury**

Injury Patterns	Mental Status & Vital Signs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and proximal extremities</li> <li>• Skull deformity, suspected skull fracture</li> <li>• Suspected spinal injury with new motor or sensory loss</li> <li>• Chest wall instability, deformity, or suspected flail chest</li> <li>• Suspected pelvic fracture</li> <li>• Suspected fracture of two or more proximal long bones</li> <li>• Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity</li> <li>• Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle</li> <li>• Active bleeding requiring a tourniquet or wound packing with continuous pressure</li> </ul>	<p><b>All Patients</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to follow commands (motor GCS &lt; 6)</li> <li>• RR &lt; 10 or &gt; 29 breaths/min</li> <li>• Respiratory distress or need for respiratory support</li> <li>• Room-air pulse oximetry &lt; 90%</li> </ul> <p><b>Age 0–9 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBP &lt; 70mm Hg + (2 x age years)</li> </ul> <p><b>Age 10–64 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBP &lt; 90 mmHg or</li> <li>• HR &gt; SBP</li> </ul> <p><b>Age ≥ 65 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBP &lt; 110 mmHg or</li> <li>• HR &gt; SBP</li> </ul>

*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	Special Considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-Risk Auto Crash               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Partial or complete ejection</li> <li>– Significant intrusion (including roof)                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;12 inches occupant site OR</li> <li>• &gt;18 inches any site OR</li> <li>• Need for extrication for entrapped patient</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Death in passenger compartment</li> <li>– Child (Age 0–9) unrestrained or in unsecured child safety seat</li> <li>– Vehicle telemetry data consistent with severe injury</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rider separated from transport vehicle with significant impact (eg, motorcycle, ATV, horse, etc.)</li> <li>• Pedestrian/bicycle rider thrown, run over, or with significant impact</li> <li>• Fall from height &gt; 10 feet (all ages)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Consider risk factors, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low-level falls in young children (age ≤ 5 years) or older adults (age ≥ 65 years) with significant head impact</li> <li>• Anticoagulant use</li> <li>• Suspicion of child abuse</li> <li>• Special, high-resource healthcare needs</li> <li>• Pregnancy &gt; 20 weeks</li> <li>• Burns in conjunction with trauma</li> <li>• Children should be triaged preferentially to pediatric capable centers</li> </ul> <p><b>Contact medical control and consider transport to a Trauma Center** or specific resource hospital</b></p>

**Patients meeting any one of the YELLOW CRITERIA WHO DO NOT MEET RED CRITERIA should be preferentially transported to a trauma center or pediatric trauma center in accordance with the DPH-approved Regional Point of Entry Plan (need not be the highest-level trauma center)**

\*\* MDPH-designated, or ACS-verified if out of state.