

PURPOSE

To provide patient entry criteria and system guidance for the Alabama Trauma System.

GUIDELINE**ALABAMA TRAUMA SYSTEM ENTRY CRITERIA****Physiological Criteria:**

1. A systolic BP <90 mm/Hg in an adult **or child 6 years or older <80 mm/Hg in a child five or younger.**
This includes any trauma related cardiac arrest that will be treated or transported to the hospital.
2. Respiratory distress - rate < 10 or >29 in adults, **or <20 or >60 in a newborn. <20 or >40 in a child three years or younger. <12 or >29 in a child four years or older.**
3. Head trauma with Glasgow Coma Scale score of 13 or less **or head trauma with any neurologic changes in a child five years or younger.**

Anatomical Criteria:

1. The patient has a flail chest.
2. The patient has two or more obvious proximal long bone fractures (humerus, femur).
3. The patient has penetrating trauma to the head, neck, torso, or extremities proximal to the elbow or knee.
4. The patient has in the same body area a combination of trauma and burns (partial and full thickness) of fifteen percent or greater.
5. See Burns Protocol (3.08) for criteria to enter a burned patient into the trauma system.
6. The patient has an amputation proximal to the wrist or ankle.
7. The patient has one or more limbs which are paralyzed.
8. The patient has a pelvic fracture, as evidenced by a positive "pelvic movement" exam.
9. The patient has a crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity.
10. The patient has an open or depressed skull fracture.

Mechanism of the patient injury:

1. A patient with the same method of restraint and in the same seating area as a deceased victim.
2. Ejection of the patient from an enclosed vehicle.
3. Motorcycle/bicycle/ATV crash with the patient being thrown at least ten feet from the motorcycle/bicycle.
4. Auto versus pedestrian with significant impact with the patient thrown, or run over by a vehicle.
5. An unbroken fall of twenty feet or more onto a hard surface. **Unbroken fall of 10 feet or 3 times the height of the child onto a hard surface.**

GUIDELINE (continued)**ALABAMA TRAUMA SYSTEM ENTRY CRITERIA****EMSP Discretion:**

1. If the EMSP is convinced that the patient could have a severe injury which is not yet obvious, the patient should be entered into the Alabama Trauma System.
2. The EMT's suspicion of severity of trauma/injury may be raised by the following factors:
 - a. Age >55
 - b. **Age <five**
 - c. Environment (hot/cold)
 - d. Patient's previous medical history
 - e. Insulin dependent diabetes or other metabolic disorder
 - f. Bleeding disorder or currently taking anticoagulant medication (e.g. coumadin, heparin)
 - g. COPD/Emphysema
 - h. Renal failure on dialysis
 - i. Pregnancy
 - j. **Child with congenital disorder**
 - k. Extrication time >20 minutes with heavy tools utilized
 - l. Motorcycle crash
 - m. Head trauma with history of more than momentary loss of consciousness.

ENTERING A PATIENT INTO THE ALABAMA TRAUMA SYSTEM

EMS Providers should call the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) to determine patient destination.

ATCC contact numbers:

Toll-Free Emergency: 1-800-359-0123, or

Southern LINC EMS Fleet 55: Talkgroup 10/Private 55*380, or Nextel: 154*132431*4

The initial unit on-scene should enter the patient into the Alabama Trauma System but if they have not done so, it becomes the responsibility of the transporting service (ground or air) before the receiving facility is selected.