



Adult Emergency Trauma Re-Triage

Effective: 8/24/2023

Review: 8/24/2026

Approved: [Link to Record of Revisions and Approvals](#)

I. Purpose

This policy is intended for adult patients whose needs are generally known immediately or soon after initial arrival, based on clinical findings. Avoid any unnecessary studies (e.g. CT scans or angiograms), and do not delay transport for paperwork/diagnostics not ready at the time of departure.

II. Procedure

STEP ONE – Determine Level of Severity

Emergency Trauma Re-Triage Criteria:

Blood pressure / perfusion:

Systolic pressure < 90 or

Need for high volume fluid resuscitation (> 2 L NS) or immediate blood replacement

GCS / Neuro

GCS Less than 9

GCS Deteriorating by 2 or more during observation

Blown pupil

Obvious open skull fracture

Anatomic criteria

Penetrating injuries to head, neck, chest, or abdomen

Extremity injury with ischemia evident or loss of pulses

Provider judgment

Patients who have a high likelihood of need for emergent life- or limb-saving surgery or other intervention within 2 hours.

STEP TWO – Arrange Emergency Transport

Contact the Trauma Center: ED to ED communication to confirm acceptance of the patient to the closest most appropriate Trauma Center.

Call 9-1-1 Directly: Request a “Code 3 Ambulance” for an “emergency trauma re-triage” patient.



If patient exceeds Paramedic Scope of Practice, arrange for RN or MD staff to accompany Paramedic or EMT in the ambulance during transport, or arrange for a Critical Care Transport (CCT) ambulance instead

STEP THREE – Send Additional Paperwork

Prepare Paperwork/Diagnostics: Send any additional paperwork not ready at the time of patient departure. (See Trauma Center Contact Information table below). Do not delay transport for paperwork or diagnostic imaging.

Trauma Center Contact Information		
Trauma Center	Contact Number for Acceptance	Fax Number for Paperwork/Diagnostics
Eden Medical Center	(510) 566-3039	(510) 727-3355
Highland (ACMC)	(510) 535-6000	(510) 535-7791