

**DEPARTMENT: Emergency Department**

**POLICY: ED 4170**

**SUBJECT: Trauma Team Activation**

**PURPOSE:** To provide guidance to the staff for determining activation of the trauma team and documentation of the care of the trauma patient.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

- ED Area Coordinator
- Inpatient Nursing Services

**POLICY:**

1. The trauma team will be activated on the direction of the ED RN, ED Provider, or prehospital staff.
2. Trauma Team Activation Criteria:
  - a. Trauma Team Activation Criteria:
    - i. **Physiologic Criteria**
      1. Glasgow Coma Scale less than 12
      2. Systolic blood pressure less than 90
      3. Respiratory rate less than 10 or greater than 29
    - ii. **Anatomical and Injury Criteria**
      1. Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow or knee
      2. Flail chest
      3. Combination of trauma with burns
      4. Two or more proximal long-bone fractures
      5. Pelvic fractures
      6. Open and depressed skull fracture
      7. Paralysis
      8. Amputation proximal to wrist and ankle
      9. Major burns
        - a. Partial thickness burns greater than 10% total body surface area
        - b. Burns that involve the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints
        - c. Third-degree burns in any age group
        - d. Electrical burns, including lightning injury
        - e. Chemical burns
        - f. Inhalation injury
        - g. Burn injury in patients with preexisting medical disorders that could complicate management, prolong recovery, or affect mortality
        - h. Burns with other trauma

i. Children with burns

iii. **Other**

1. The trauma team may be activated at the discretion of the ED RN, ED Provider or prehospital staff.
3. The trauma team will be contacted by the Ward Clerk. The trauma team will be informed of the general age of the patient, nature of injuries and estimated time of arrival.
4. The Trauma Team Call-in record will be utilized each time the Trauma Team is activated; the Ward Clerk documents the time of notification of each member of the trauma team. When notification is complete the Trauma Call-in Record is taped to the door of the ED Trauma Room. Responding personnel write their time of arrival on the Call-in Record. The Trauma Team Call-in Record is placed in the patient's medical record.
5. When three or more trauma patients are presenting at the same time, the following algorithm will be used. The Hospitalist will make medical staff assignments and serve as the Emergency Department's incident coordinator.

3 or More Patients



Activate Trauma Team



Call all On-call Medical Staff

(Hospitalist, OB, Orthopedics, Pediatrics)



Announce Facility Alert  
Mass Casualty and  
Location

EOC Policy #200

**REVIEW PROCESS:**

- To be reviewed annually by ED Area Coordinator, Director of Nursing Services, EMS Director, Medical Staff, CEO