

# Trauma Patient Triage

## Step 1\*

### Measure Vital Signs and Level of Consciousness

- Unresponsive to Verbal Stimulation (Glasgow Coma Score <14) or
- Systolic Blood Pressure <90 or
- Respiratory Rate <10 or >29

**Patients with Any of the Above Should be Transported to Trauma Center**

**\*Source: American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma - Resources For Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 1999**

# Trauma Patient Triage

## Step 2\*

### Assess Anatomy of Injury

- Penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow and knee
- Flail chest
- Combination trauma with burns
- Two or more proximal long-bone fractures

**Patients with Any of the Above Should be Transported to Trauma Center**

**\*Source: American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma - Resources For Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 1999**

# Trauma Patient Triage

## Step 2\* (Cont'd)

### Assess Anatomy of Injury

- Pelvic fractures
- Open and depressed skull fracture
- Paralysis
- Amputation proximal to wrist and ankle
- Major burns

**Patients with Any of the Above Should be Transported to Trauma Center**

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# Trauma Patient Triage

## Step 3\*

### Evaluate for Evidence of Mechanism of Injury and High-Energy Impact

- Ejection from automobile
- Death in same passenger compartment
- Extrication time >20 minutes
- Falls >20 feet
- Vehicle rollover

**Consider Transport to Trauma Center for Patients Experiencing Any of the Above**

**\*Source: American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma - Resources For Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 1999**

# Trauma Patient Triage

## Step 3\* (Cont'd)

### Evaluate for Evidence of Mechanism of Injury and High-Energy Impact

- High-speed auto crash
- Auto-pedestrian/auto-bicycle injury w/significant impact
- Pedestrian thrown or run over
- Motorcycle crash >20 mph

**Consider Transport to Trauma Center for Patients Experiencing Any of the Above**

**\*Source: American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma - Resources For Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 1999**

# Trauma Patient Triage

## Step 4\*

### Evaluate for Complicating Factors

- Age <5 or >55
- Cardiac disease, respiratory disease
- Insulin-dependent diabetes, cirrhosis, morbid obesity
- Pregnancy
- Immunosuppressed patients
- Patients with bleeding disorder or anticoagulants

**Consider Transport to Trauma Center for Patients with Any of the Above**

**\*Source: American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma - Resources For Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 1999**

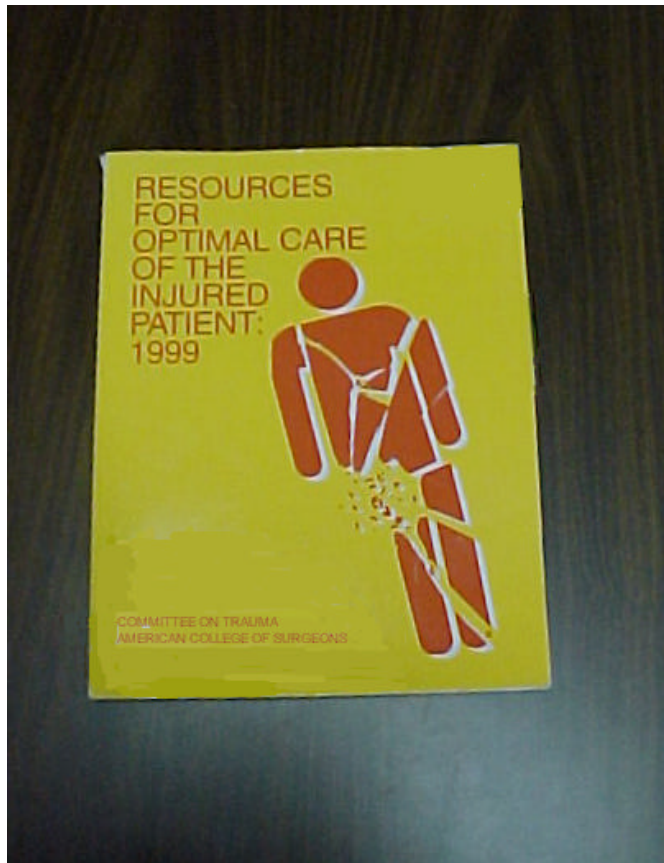
# Trauma Patient Triage

**“Steps 1 and 2 triage attempts identify the most seriously injured patients in the field. In a trauma system, these patients would preferentially be transported to the highest level of care within the system”.\***

**WHEN IN DOUBT TAKE PATIENT TO TRAUMA CENTER !!**

**\*Source: American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma - Resources For Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 1999**

# Resources Manual



**American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma - Resources For Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 1999**

**This publication, sometimes called “the gold book” outlines the National Standards for trauma patient triage and care**