

PRIMARY TRIAGE DECISION SCHEME*

GEORGIA TRAUMA SYSTEM

1

Measure vital signs and level of consciousness

Glasgow Coma Scale	≤ 13 or
Systolic blood pressure	< 90 or
Respiratory rate	< 10 or > 29 (<20 in infant < one year)

YES

NO

Steps 1 and 2 attempt to identify the most seriously injured patients. These patients meet *Georgia Trauma System Entry Criteria*.
Take to a trauma center.

Assess anatomy of injury

2

- All penetrating injuries of the head, neck, torso, or groin associated with an energy transfer
- Flail chest
- Two or more obvious proximal long-bone fractures
- Crushed, degloved, or mangled extremity
- Amputation proximal to wrist and ankle
- Pelvic fractures, as evidenced by a positive "pelvic movement" exam
- Open or depressed skull fracture
- Paralysis

YES

NO

Steps 1 and 2 attempt to identify the most seriously injured patients. These patients meet *Georgia Trauma System Entry Criteria*.
Take to a trauma center.

Assess evidence of high-energy impact

3

- Falls**
- Adults: > 20 ft. (one story is equal to 10 ft.)
 - Children: > 10 ft. or 2-3 times the height of the child
- High-Risk Auto Crash**
- Intrusion: > 12 in. occupant site; > 18 in. any site
 - Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile
 - Death in same passenger compartment
 - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with high risk of injury
- Auto v. Pedestrian/Bicyclist Thrown, Run Over, or with Significant (>20 MPH) Impact**
- Motorcycle Crash > 20 MPH**

YES

NO

These patients meet *Georgia Trauma System Entry Criteria*.
Take to a trauma center.

Assess special patient or system considerations

4

- Age**
- Older Adults: risk of injury death increases after age 55
 - Children: Should be triaged preferentially to pediatric-capable trauma centers
- Anticoagulation and Bleeding Disorders**
- Burn**
- Without other trauma mechanism: Triage to burn facility
 - In same body area, a combination of trauma and burns (partial and full thickness) of fifteen percent or greater
- Time Sensitive Extremity Injury**
- End-Stage Renal Disease Requiring Dialysis**
- Pregnancy > 20 Weeks**
- EMS Provider Judgment (to include known patient medical history)**

YES

NO

These patients meet *Georgia Trauma System Entry Criteria*.
Take to a trauma center or other appropriate hospital identified in protocols.

Transport according to protocol

*Adopted largely from the National Trauma Triage Protocol of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

When in doubt, transport to a trauma center.