

Colorado Emergency Medical & Trauma Services System Prehospital Trauma Triage Algorithm Guideline

Mile-High Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council (MHRETAC)

Step 1 – Respiratory			
1. Unable to adequately ventilate		YES →	Transport to appropriate facility
NO ↓			
Step 2 – Physiology			
Children (AGE 0-12) Or < 5 FT IN HEIGHT	Adult		
1. Intubation or 2. Respiratory Distress or 3. Capillary Refill > 2 sec or BP abnormal for age (<70+2x age) or 4. Glasgow Motor Score ≤5	1. Intubation or 2. Systolic BP < 90 or 3. Respiratory rate < 10 or > 29 with distress or 4. Glasgow Motor Score ≤ 5	YES →	-Transport to a Level I or II trauma center - Transport children 5 years of age or younger to The Children’s Hospital when time and conditions allow -Children 6-18 yrs of age can be taken to Level I, II or TCH.
NO ↓			
Step 3 – Anatomy (any one of the below)			
1. Penetrating injuries-head, neck , torso, pelvis 2. Flail chest 3. Bilateral Femur Fractures 4. Unstable pelvis or suspected significant pelvic fracture 5. Paralysis or evidence of spinal cord injury 6. Amputation above the wrist or ankle 7. Significant burns 8. Unreactive or unequal pupils.		YES →	-Transport to a Level I or II trauma center -Transport children 5 years of age or younger to The Children’s Hospital when time and conditions allow - Children 6-18 can be taken to Level I, II, or TCH
NO ↓			
Step 4 – Mechanism (any one of the below)			
1. Ejection from motor vehicle/conveyance 2. Falls > 15 feet (adults); 2x’s height of child 3. Pedestrian, motorcyclist or pedal cyclist thrown >15 ft. or run over 4. Significant crush injury 5. High energy dissipation 6. Extrication > 20 min with an injury 7. Unrestrained occupant in vehicle rollover 8. Death of same car occupant 9. Significant assault 10. Exposure to blast or explosion 11. Intrusion of vehicle of ≥ 12” in occupant compartment 12. Suspected non-accidental trauma		YES →	-Transport to closest appropriate level trauma facility as time and conditions allow
NO ↓			
Step 5 – Co-morbidity Considerations (any one of the below)			
1. Extremes of ages <5 and > 55 years of age 2. Extreme heat or cold 3. Medical illness (such as COPD, CHF, renal failure, diabetes, etc.) 4. Presence of intoxicants 5. Pregnancy 6. EMT clinical suspicion of occult injury		YES →	-Transport to Level I-IV trauma center
NO ↓			
Transport to closest appropriate hospital			Transport to any acute care facility.

- Notes: 1. Use of this algorithm in multiple casualty events will be determined in the future
 2. This algorithm applies to both air and ground scene transports
 3. The Children’s Hospital, a Level I trauma center, is an appropriate destination for ages 0-18
 4. **DISCRETION OF PRE-HOSPITAL PERSONNEL BASED ON ABOVE FACTORS MAY DETERMINE TRANSPORT**
 5. The MHRETAC recognizes that the identification of specific injuries on scene may be limited
 6. See attached narrative for further explanation

Revised May 3, 2005
 Adopted by the MHRETAC on May 19, 2005

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Mile-High Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council (MHRETAC) Philosophy

The Mile-High RETAC submits this approved algorithm. This algorithm is different from the way the State currently conducts scene transports for several reasons. This algorithm allows the MHRETAC to regionalize trauma care to deliver the injured patient to the correct level trauma center utilizing the unique resources available in the MHRETAC region.

The MHRETAC currently has 12 trauma centers. This region contains the most, and the highest level trauma centers in the state of Colorado. The region has all 3 Level I trauma centers, the only Level I Regional Pediatric Trauma Center in Colorado, 3 Level II trauma centers, 2 Level III trauma centers, and 3 Level IV trauma centers.

Closest Appropriate- The rationale for not using the words closest and appropriate is because this region contains the largest number of trauma centers in the state. Ground transport between the Level I trauma centers in this RETAC is less than 15 minutes. The distance between trauma centers by air is measured in seconds. The terms time and closest have less significance in this region with the high population of trauma centers. This RETAC also recognizes the fact that a few of the Level III and IV trauma centers are located at the outer areas of this region.

Pediatric Care- The Children's Hospital is a unique resource for children 5 years of age and younger and is appropriate for children ages 6-18 years of age.

Interfacility Transfers- The MHRETAC recognizes that this algorithm may require interfacility transfers.

QI Audit filters – The MHRETAC will develop tools and systems necessary to conduct an audit utilizing indicators that will measure the effectiveness of this triage algorithm. Based on the goals and objectives of the State of Colorado's Strategic Plan, the following statements were developed to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of a trauma system. Indicators for each of the statements listed below will be identified. The phases to be assessed will be the pre-hospital phase, the acute-care/hospital phase and the system evaluation.

- Decrease the incidence of death and disability in this region due to trauma and illness
- Assure that timely and appropriate care is provided to all patients
- Help to assure that the overall provision of emergency care is cost-effective

Approved by Mile-High RETAC Destination Committee on May 3, 2005

Approved by Metro Physicians Advisory Group on May 18, 2005

Approved by Mile-High RETAC on May 19, 2005

Approved by SEMTAC RETAC Committee on July 26, 2005

Approved by SEMTAC on July 27, 2005