

TRAUMA CENTRE CONSULTATION GUIDELINES

These guidelines are meant to facilitate consultations with, and/or transfer to, a trauma centre and should be applied using clinical judgement. Final decision to transfer remains at the discretion of the referring and receiving physicians.

The decision to transfer should be made within 1 hour.

All consultations with a TTL should be coordinated through CritiCall Ontario: 1-800-668-4357

ALL TRAUMA PATIENTS

For ALL paediatric and adult injuries, contact CritiCall Ontario for the appropriate Trauma Centre.

Systems Criteria

Any patient (with a major traumatic injury [severe multisystem; life-or-limb threatening single system]) requiring trauma consultation or who requires more care than can be provided at the referring centre based on the assessment of the ED physician. Not all patients with single system injuries will need to be transferred to a Lead Trauma Hospital and may be able to receive care where local expertise exists.

Physiological Criteria

- GCS <10 due to traumatic injury
- Significant alteration of consciousness due to trauma
- Hypotension (due to trauma) that is unresponsive or only transiently responsive to fluids
- Hypothermia (Body Temp) <32°C (with traumatic injuries)

Anatomical Criteria (one or more of the following)

- Suspected spinal cord injury with paraplegia or quadriplegia
- Moderate-to-severe head trauma
- Severe (or suspected severe) penetrating injury to the head, neck, torso or groin (stab wound or GSW)
- A requirement for blood products to maintain vital signs
- Amputation above the wrist or ankle
- Pelvic fractures with hemodynamic instability or significant hematoma
- Major crush or vascular injury
- Trauma with burn or inhalation injury

Refer to ABA (American Burn Association Burn Centre Referral Criteria)

Please refer to the Neurosurgery Cranial and Spinal Consultation Criteria for isolated Cranial and Spinal Neurosurgical cases found on site

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

High risk considerations which may warrant transfer to Lead Trauma Centre at a lower threshold. These considerations include:

- Age > 55;
- Age < 15;
- Anticoagulation;
- Immunosuppression;
- Pregnancy; or
- Other significant medical problems
- A CT Scan may not always be required for the decision to transfer if it will delay definitive management.

For any considerations, consult with on-call trauma team leader through CritiCall Ontario.

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