

## TRAUMA ALERT: When to Activate

Activate a **TRAUMA ALERT** for any trauma patient (blunt or penetrating) with concerning mechanism and/or at least one of the following, or at provider or RN discretion.

| Physiologic Criteria  | Anatomic Injury Criteria   | Mechanism of Injury Criteria<br>(with concern)   |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Systolic blood pressure &lt; 90 mmHg (adult) <u>or</u> age-specific hypotension in children</li> <li>• Respiratory rate &lt; 10 <u>or</u> &gt; 29; <u>or</u> need for assisted ventilation</li> <li>• Oxygen saturation &lt; 90% on supplemental oxygen</li> <li>• Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) ≤ 13 <u>or</u> any deterioration in GCS due to trauma</li> <li>• Need for - or imminent need for - advanced airway</li> <li>• Persistent tachycardia &gt; 130 in an adult with suspected hemorrhage</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Penetrating injury to head, neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis, or proximal extremities</li> <li>• Suspected spinal cord injury (focal neurologic deficit or paralysis)</li> <li>• Obvious open or depressed skull fracture</li> <li>• ≥ 2 obvious long-bone fractures</li> <li>• Suspected pelvic <u>or</u> hip fracture (pelvic instability <u>or</u> high-energy mechanism with pelvic pain)</li> <li>• Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle, <u>or</u> mangled/pulseless extremity</li> <li>• Major burns combined with trauma</li> <li>• Significant trauma in pregnancy &gt; 20 weeks</li> </ul> | <p>Use clinical judgment; mechanism alone may justify a Trauma Alert if concern is high:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-speed MVC, rollover, or ejection from vehicle</li> <li>• Pedestrian or bicyclist struck by a vehicle</li> <li>• Fall &gt; 15–20 feet (<u>or</u> 2–3× patient’s height)</li> <li>• Ground level fall &gt; 65 years old with head strike <u>and</u> on blood thinners (excluding aspirin)</li> <li>• Crush injury <u>or</u> high-energy blunt force to the torso</li> <li>• Blast injury <u>or</u> high-velocity fragments</li> </ul> |

### Provider Discretion:

The ED attending and/or charge nurse may activate a **TRAUMA ALERT** at any time if, in their judgment, the patient would benefit from *full coordinated trauma resuscitation*, even if strict Physiologic, Anatomic, or Mechanism criteria are not yet met.