

# McKinley County EMS System Patient Destination Guidelines for All Transported Patients

## Goal/Purpose

All patients encountered by EMS within McKinley County, including those that are medically unstable, unconscious and/or at high risk of multiple or severe injuries or illness, as well as those with less severe injuries or illness but whose medical condition necessitates transport by ambulance, need to be quickly identified, assessed and transported to the appropriate facility whose medical capability and service availability is consistent with the medical and/or surgical needs of the patient.

## Patient Destination Matrix

**The main field triage decision puts patients into one of two groups:**

1. Patients requiring trauma facilities.
2. Patients requiring non-trauma facilities, with or without surgical capabilities

**Facilities in McKinley County are categorized into three main groups:**

1. Trauma designated facilities
2. Non-trauma designated facilities with surgical capabilities
3. Non-trauma designated facilities without surgical capabilities

## Emergency Patient Categories

There are two general types of patients who require emergency transport. The first is trauma and the second are those with emergent medical conditions. This document presents patient transportation protocols for trauma patients.

## Medical facilities located in the McKinley County Area

There are five medical facilities located in McKinley County: Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC), Rehoboth McKinley Christian Hospital, (RMCH), Crownpoint Comprehensive Health Facility (CCHF), Cibola General and Zuni Comprehensive Community Health Center (ZCCHC).

**\*\*See Appendix A (attached to this document)**

## Trauma Patient Destination Guidelines

**Decision Criteria:** this McKinley County EMS transport guideline is intended to ensure that both types of trauma patients, major and minor, are transported to the appropriate medical facility. Major trauma patients who meet triage criteria (see CDC 2011 Algorithm below) should be transported by air or ground ambulance directly to the appropriate trauma facility. Injured patients with less severe injuries can be transported to other medical facilities in or near McKinley County.

## **Major Trauma Patients**

### **Criteria of Transports to Designated/Non-designated Trauma Centers**

The criteria listed below are guidelines for EMS personnel:

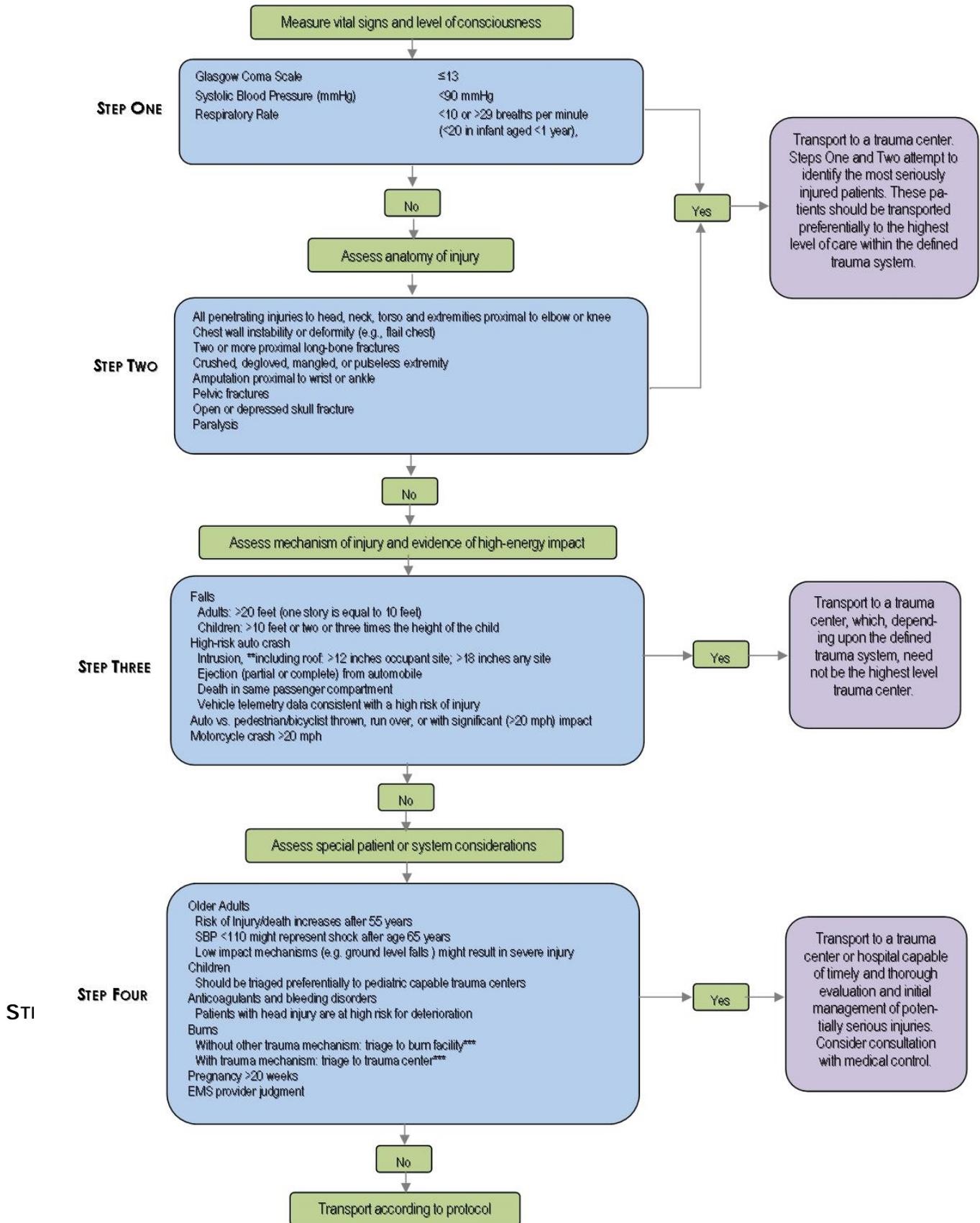
The Trauma Center Transport Protocol will be initiated for all trauma **patients who are hemodynamically unstable, unconscious, and /or at risk of multiple and/or severe injury.** Hospitals will be notified via radio or phone of **Trauma STAT** enroute to their facility.

As indicated by the following parameters (age appropriate where applicable):

**\*\*Refer to page 3 of this document to view  
Alogorhythm for field triage of injured patients from  
CDC Guidelines 2011**

All major trauma patients should be transported to designated trauma facilities rather than to the non-designated hospitals EXCEPT under the following circumstances (Reference NMAC 7.27.7.11 Pre-Hospital Transport Guidelines):

- If unable to establish and/or maintain an airway, or in the event of traumatic cardiac arrest, the patient will be transported to the nearest hospital.
- If the patient is surgically or medically unstable the patient will be transported to nearest hospital for stabilization.
- If the local EMS service is unable to arrange air transportation to nearest hospital for stabilization.
- If the local EMS service is unable to arrange air transportation or hand-off the patient to an EMS service with advanced life support (ALS) capabilities, the patient will be transported to local hospitals.
- If the expected transport time to the appropriate trauma facility exceeds 60 minutes and EMS is unable to arrange air transportation or hand-off the patient to an EMS service with advanced life support (ALS) capabilities.



**WHEN IN DOUBT, TRANSPORT TO A TRAUMA CENTER**

## **Air Ambulance:**

### **Air Ambulance Activation Guideline:**

EMS Air Ambulance; when transporting by ground is not appropriate due to distance, terrain, traffic or other reasons, activation of an EMS air ambulance should be considered as provided for the local TTPs (Reference NMAC 7.27.7.11.B(1) Pre-hospital Transport Guidelines).

Consideration for EMS air ambulance shall include transport time greater than 30 minutes AND:

- a) multiple trauma patients,
- b) disaster situations
- c) poorly accessible terrain
- d) excessive or impeding traffic

### **Air Ambulance Dispatch Guideline:**

**\*\*Please see Appendix B for Metro Dispatch office for current dispatch guidelines for rotor aircraft.  
This guideline is subject to change as determined by the assigned sub-committee members.**

### **Notes:**

- If there are any questions regarding activation of Regional Trauma System Plan, medical control should be contacted for the final decision.
- Patient's right, choices and best interest will be respected, based on patient's clinical condition, in the determination of hospital destination.

## Appendix A

### Designated Level 3 Trauma Center in McKinley County:

**Gallup Indian Medical Center (GIMC)**

P.O. Box 1337  
Gallup, NM 87301  
(505) 722-1000

### Non- designated Facilities in McKinley County without surgical capabilities, or with limited surgical capabilities:

**Cibola General Hospital (CGH)**

non-designated limited surgical capabilities  
833 E. Roosevelt Ave.  
Grants, NM 87020  
(505) 287-6500

**Crownpoint Comprehensive Health Facility (CCHF)**

non-designated without surgical capabilities  
P.O. Box 358  
Hwy Junction 371, Rt. 9  
Crownpoint, NM 87313  
(505) 786-5291

**Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services (RMCHCS)**

non-designated with surgical capabilities  
1901 red Rock Drive  
Gallup, NM 87301  
(505) 863-7000

**Zuni Comprehensive Health Center (ZCCHC)**

non-designated without surgical capabilities  
PO Box 467  
Zuni, New Mexico 87327  
(505) 782-7485

## Appendix B

Date: July 12, 2012

To: Supervisors/All Employees

CC: Glendora Orphey, Director

Re: Directive for request for Rotor Aircraft Scene Assistance

The following protocol is an amendment from revised directive dated May 1, 2012 and will be adhered to for a request of **Rotor Aircraft on scene calls by county operated units**.

Rotor Response – TriState Care Flight & PHI

- a. Zone / Perimeter – 51 mile marker on I-40
  - i. **WEST of the 51 mile marker** – TriState Rotor Team is 1<sup>st</sup> call
  - ii. **EAST of the 51 mile marker** – PHI Rotor Team is 1<sup>st</sup> call
  - iii. In the event that ETA is not acceptable or 1<sup>st</sup> call team is not available, call the next closest available
- b. Local Rotor Aircraft Services
  - i. TriState Care Flight (Gallup Based)
  - ii. PHI (Grants Based)
- c. Other Air Ambulance Services
  - i. Air Care One (Farmington)
  - ii. Northern boundary is McKinley County line. If the incident is located NORTH of that boundary, contact Air Care One for availability/ETA
- d. Rotor Aircraft request in Ramah area
  - i. If PHI is requested, send PHI as Ramah area residents are insured under PHI,
  - ii. Confirm that PHI is requested.
  - iii. If PHI is not available, inform on-scene personnel the next closest available ROTOR will be notified.
- e. The contact numbers for Rotor Aircrafts are placed under the telephone rolodex under the following names:
  - i. PHI
  - ii. TriState Care Flight
  - iii. Air Care One
- f. Per the Subcommittee discussion on 04/23/2012, the use of “stand-by” rotor advisement will no longer be used. Rotor aircraft will be launched once on-scene first responders have

made request; this request may be made on scene or upon receipt of page and incident report from Metro Dispatch.