



## INTERFACILITY TRANSFER – GROUND AMBULANCE TRAUMA SYSTEM TRANSFER GUIDELINES

**Effective:** August 12, 2024  
**Replaces:** January 1, 2021

### I. Purpose of the Schedule

The purpose of this schedule is to identify Santa Clara County Trauma System Transfer Guidelines.

### II. Trauma Transfer Procedure

DO NOT DELAY. Initiate the process immediately. Transfers can be cancelled.	
Step 1	Contact the receiving "Trauma Center" ED and confirm that the receiving physician will accept the patient.
Step 2	Determine the appropriate "Type of Ambulance Transport."
Step 3	Initiate response by requesting " <b>CODE 3 Trauma Transfer</b> " from the appropriate ambulance provider. ♦ For <b>EMERGENCY TRANSFER</b> patients, use County Communications' direct phone line 408.299.3325. When a 911 ambulance is used, the patient <u>must always go to the closest Trauma Center</u> . ♦ For <b>URGENT TRANSFER</b> patients, call contracted ambulance provider directly or other non-911 ambulance provider. When a non-911 ambulance is used, the destination is at the discretion of the sending physician.
Step 4	Prepare patient and paperwork for immediate transfer of care when the ambulance arrives (include a disc with imaging).

### III. Trauma Transfer Criteria for **EMERGENCY TRANSFER**

EMERGENCY TRANSFER criteria - for patients requiring immediate transfer by 911 ambulance:	
• Blood Pressure	♦ BP of <90 ♦ Decrease in BP by 30mmHg after 2 liters of crystalloid solution infusion
• Head Injury with blown pupil	
• Penetrating thoracic or abdominal trauma	
• Patient requiring immediate evaluation / resuscitation per transferring physician	
• <b>Contact trauma hospital Emergency Department before calling for a 911 ambulance</b>	

IV. Trauma Transfer Criteria: **URGENT TRANSFER**

URGENT TRANSFER criteria - for patients <u>NOT</u> requiring immediate transfer by 911 ambulance:	
● Central Nervous System	◆ Penetrating injury or open fracture to head
	◆ GCS decrease with abnormal CT
	◆ Spinal cord or major vertebral injury
● Chest	◆ Major chest wall injury with >3 rib fractures and/or pulmonary contusion
	◆ Wide mediastinum or other signs of great vessel injury
	◆ Cardiac injury
	◆ Penetrating chest injury
● Major extremity injuries	◆ Fracture / dislocation with loss of distal pulses and/or ischemia
	◆ Open long bone fractures
	◆ Two or more long bones fractures
	◆ Amputations requiring replantation
● Pelvis / Abdomen	◆ Pelvic ring disruption
	◆ Solid organ injury confirmed by CT or ultrasound demonstrating abdominal fluid
● Multiple System Injury	◆ Burns with associated injuries – Transfer to VMC
	◆ Major injury to more than two body regions
	◆ Signs of hypo-perfusion – Lactate >4 or Base deficit >4
● Co-morbid factors	◆ Adult >65 y/o
	◆ Children <6 y/o
	◆ Insulin dependent diabetes
	◆ Morbid obesity
	◆ Cardiac or respiratory disease
	◆ Immunosuppression
	◆ Pregnancy > 20 weeks' gestation
<b>Contact trauma hospital call center to arrange for transfer</b>	

**V. Type of Ambulance Transports for Trauma Transfers**

<b>Ground Ambulance Transport</b>	
911 ALS	Provide standard ALS capabilities and medications.
CCT-RN	Provide ALS, administer most medications/drips and provide mechanical ventilation.
Non-911 ALS	Provide standard ALS capabilities and medications. No blood products within 30 minutes.
Non-911 BLS	Provide standard BLS only. Staffed by two (2) EMTs. Last ground ambulance option. Consider sending facility RN or MD with crew.
<i>List of Permitted Ground Ambulance Providers found in Schedule A of this policy.</i>	
<b>Air Ambulance Transport</b>	
Provide ALS, administer most medications/drips and provide mechanical ventilation. Policy 621: Interfacility Transfer-Air Ambulance identifies system requirements and providers.	

**VI. Designated Santa Clara County Trauma Centers**

<b>Trauma Center</b>	<b>Level of Care</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
Stanford (SUH)	Adult / Pediatrics	650.723.7337 - (Emergency Transfer) 800.800.1551 - (Urgent Transfer)
Valley Medical Center (VMC)	Adult / Pediatrics	408.947.4087 - (Both)