



COTS
An affiliate of the Columbus Medical Association

Guideline

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Title:	Regional Trauma Transfer Guidelines
Approved by:	Board of Trustees, Trauma Advisory Board
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REGIONAL TRAUMA TRANSFER GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

This guideline identifies the specific recommendations and requirements for transfer of trauma patients in the COTS region to assure optimum care.

SCOPE

These guidelines are intended for use by COTS member hospitals. Use of these guidelines is voluntary except for the 8/8 Ohio Revised Codes (ORC).

BACKGROUND

Experts have identified that critically injured trauma patients have better outcomes when treated at a hospital best staffed and equipped to treat them. Trauma centers provide specialized care and experienced multidisciplinary resources necessary for optimal outcomes.

The American College of Surgeons verifies all trauma centers in Ohio. The verification process evaluates the presence of necessary resources (transfer agreements and performance improvement feedback on transfers) required to care for the injured patient. Following successful verification, the State of Ohio then designates the hospital to be a trauma center.

Section 4765.01 of the ORC identifies patients who should be transported directly to a state designated trauma center.

Section 4765.50 states no physician shall:

- (1) Admit an adult trauma patient to a hospital that is not an adult trauma center for the purpose of providing adult trauma care;
- (2) Admit a pediatric trauma patient to a hospital that is not a pediatric trauma center for the purpose of providing pediatric trauma care;
- (3) Fail to transfer an adult or pediatric trauma patient to an adult or pediatric trauma center in accordance with applicable federal law, state law, and adult or pediatric trauma protocols and patient transfer agreements adopted under section [3727.09](#) of the Revised Code.

ASSUMPTIONS AND OVERVIEW OF COTS TRAUMA TRANSFER GUIDELINES

- All COTS member hospitals are required to have established transfer guidelines which are reviewed on a routine basis.
- All EMS agencies have regional prehospital trauma triage guidelines that are reviewed every three (3) years.
- EMS and COTS member hospitals adhere to the State of Ohio ORC 3727.09 and COTS Regional Prehospital Trauma Triage Guidelines and American Burn Association (ABA) Burn Criteria.
- The Joint Commission has identified that a clear transition of care across the continuum is needed as a patient moves from one health care setting to another and one healthcare provider to another.
- Trauma patients should be transported to the most appropriate center if they meet the criteria for the COTS Regional Prehospital Trauma Triage Guidelines and American Burn Association (ABA) Burn Criteria.
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- If a decision is made to transfer the patient by helicopter air ambulance (HAA) the providers should follow the [HAA Safety Request Initiatives](#).
- There are seven (7) special considerations for trauma transfer in the COTS region:
 1. Trauma patients < 16 years of age should be transported to Nationwide Children's Hospital.
 2. Trauma patients <16 years of age who appear or provide history of pregnancy should be transported to an ADULT trauma center.
 3. Transport trauma adult burn patients to The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (adult); Transport pediatric burn trauma patients to Nationwide Children's Hospital.
 4. Transport isolated globe injuries in adult patients to OhioHealth Grant Medical Center, Mount Carmel East Hospital, or The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center; Transport pediatric patients to Nationwide Children's Hospital.
 5. Transport upper extremity amputations in adult patients to designated hand/microvascular centers at OhioHealth Grant, OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital, or The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center; Transport pediatric patients to Nationwide Children's Hospital.
 6. Incidents resulting in multi/mass casualties are addressed by specific surge plans or regional guidelines.
 7. Transport hemophilia adult patients to The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center; Transport pediatric patients to Nationwide Children's Hospital

- The ABA verified burn centers in the COTS region are:
 - Nationwide Children's Hospital
 - The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
 - Patients that meet the criteria below should be transported to these centers.
 1. Partial thickness burns greater than 10% total body surface area
 2. Burns that involve the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints
 3. Third degree burns
 4. Electrical Burns, including lighting injury
 5. Chemical burns
 6. Inhalation injury
 7. Burn injury with pre-existing medical disorder that could complicate management, prolong recovery, or affect mortality
 8. Any patient with burns and concomitant trauma (such as fractures) in which the burn poses the greatest risk of morbidity or mortality. In such cases, if the trauma poses the greatest risk the patient may be stabilized in the trauma center before being transferred to a burn unit. Physician judgement will be necessary in such cases
 9. Burned children in hospitals without qualified personal or equipment for the care of children
 10. Burn injury patients who will require specific social, emotional, or rehabilitative intervention

Reference - <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3727.09>