

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Paramedic Pathfinder - Major Trauma in Adults

V 2.0 1 September 2015

This process applies to patients who may have suffered major trauma

Complete Primary Survey
ABCD

Unmanageable airway
Unmanageable breathing
Unmanageable catastrophic haemorrhage

Yes

Activate Major Trauma Alert
Immediate transport to nearest
Trauma Unit or Trauma Centre

No

Respiratory rate 9 or less
respiratory rate 30 or more
Systolic blood pressure 89 or less
GCS 12 or less

Yes

No

Flail chest
Penetrating trauma to the head, neck, trunk or limbs
proximal to elbow / knee
Fractures to two or more long bones (humerus/femur)
Amputation proximal to wrist/ankle
Ischaemic limbs
Suspected spinal injury with new onset motor deficit

Yes

Activate Major Trauma Alert
Prompt transport to nearest
Trauma Centre if under 45 min
drive otherwise proceed to
nearest Trauma Unit

No

Dangerous or significant mechanism
Death in the same passenger compartment
Frail or elderly
On Anticoagulants
Pregnancy of 20 weeks or more
Other clinician concern

Yes

Contact Trauma Cell for senior
clinical advice
Proceed as advised

No

Not high major trauma risk
Apply Paramedic Pathfinder for
Trauma

Request senior
clinical support
(Senior,
Advanced or
Consultant
Paramedic) early.
However, do not
delay transport.