

# 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.

