

BYPASS PROTOCOL

Guidelines for facility, bypass protocols:

Transport protocols must ensure that patients who meet triage criteria for activation of a regional trauma system (RTS) plan will be transported directly to an appropriate trauma facility rather than to the nearest hospital except under the following circumstances:

1. If unable to establish and/or maintain an adequate airway, or in the case of traumatic cardiac arrest, the patient should be taken to the nearest acute care facility for stabilization.
2. A general facility may be appropriate if the expected transport time to the lead facility is excessive (see #5 below).
3. A basic facility may be appropriate for immediate evaluation and stabilization if the expected transport time to a trauma facility is excessive (see #5 below)
4. Medical control may order bypass for any of the above situations, when a facility is unable to meet the hospital resource criteria or when the patient is in need of speciality care.
5. If expected transport time is excessive (25 minutes) or if a lengthy extrication time (15 minutes), consider activating air transport resources.

Note: Questions regarding bypassing a facility should be directed to medical control for a final decision.

EMS and Facility Triage Criteria for Facility Bypass should be considered.