



Decide to Save Lives

Field Triage Decision Scheme: The National Trauma Triage Protocol

Each year, the approximately 800,000 emergency medical services (EMS) providers have a substantial impact on the care of injured persons and on public health in the United States. The profound importance of on-scene triage decisions made daily by EMS providers is reinforced by CDC-supported research that shows that the overall risk of death was 25 percent lower when care was provided at a Level 1 trauma center than when it was provided at a non-trauma center.

The “Field Triage Decision Scheme: The National Trauma Triage Protocol” (Decision Scheme) educational initiative was developed to help EMS providers, EMS medical directors, trauma system leadership, and EMS administrators learn about and implement the revised 2006 Decision Scheme. The Decision Scheme is intended to be the foundation for the development, implementation, and evaluation of local and regional field triage protocols.

As part of this initiative, CDC has developed easy-to-use materials for EMS professionals. Each of these materials provides information that EMS professionals can use to take an active role in improving the health outcomes for persons injured in their communities.

For more information, please visit: www.cdc.gov/FieldTriage.

Continuing Education (CMEs, CNEs, CEUs)

Continuing Education Activity credit is available through CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR)* Continuing Education Program. To access the report and accompanying exam, visit: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted.html.

Important Information for EMS Providers:

This continuing education activity is approved by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services (CECBEMS).

CECBEMS Activity #: 08-CECB-F2-0879 CEU Number and Type: 2.0 Advanced

Materials

The following is a list of information and resources on field triage:

Listen to a Podcast

- [Field Triage Decision Scheme: The National Trauma Triage Protocol](#)

Download Tools and Resources

- [Guidelines for Field Triage of Injured Patients: Recommendations of the National Expert Panel on Field Triage](#)
- [Field Triage Decision Scheme: The National Trauma Triage Protocol, Poster](#)
- [Field Triage Decision Scheme: The National Trauma Triage Protocol, Pocket Card](#)