

Metropolitan and Regional Paediatric and Adult Major Trauma Triage Guidelines

Background

The Ministerial Taskforce report Review of Trauma and Emergency Services (the ROTES report) established a framework for the treatment of major trauma patients. The development of an integrated system was considered necessary following research into trauma outcomes in Victoria, which found that 30% of major trauma related deaths were preventable or potentially preventable.

The department of Human Services introduced the Metropolitan Trauma Triage Guidelines in July 2002. The introduction of Major Trauma Triage Guidelines is intended to increase the proportion of major trauma patients treated at a Major Trauma Service; the introduction of the Guidelines is a key development in the implementation of the Victorian State Trauma System.

The Guidelines

Adult Patients

Ambulance services should triage adult major trauma patients and suspected adult major trauma patients directly to an adult Major Trauma Service (The Alfred and the Royal Melbourne Hospital), when the travel time is less than 30 minutes.

If a Major Trauma Service is not within 30 minutes travel time, then the patient should be triaged to the next highest-level trauma service within 30-minute travel time, from the accident site.

Paediatric Patients

Ambulance services should triage paediatric major trauma patients and suspected paediatric major trauma patients directly to the Royal Children's Hospital when travel time is less than 30 minutes.

Trauma Advice and Referral Line 1800 700 001

The department introduced the Trauma Advice and Referral telephone line to provide clinical advice and support to clinicians managing major trauma patients, and to coordinate the referral and transfer of patients to the Major Trauma Services. Clinicians are able to call 1800 700 001 to speak with a senior trauma consultant at either of the adult Major Trauma Services or the Royal Children's Hospital.

Specialist Trauma Triage and Transfer

Hospitals with neurosurgical specialities should manage neurotrauma patients requiring critical care support. All health services are advised to avoid patient deterioration during interhospital transfer by the timely and proactive transfer of such patients to a Major Trauma Service.

Major trauma including spinal trauma should initially be triaged to a Major Trauma Service. Early consultation by each treating hospital with the Victorian Spinal Cord Unit at the Austin Hospital is essential to optimise patient outcomes.

Discrete spinal cord injured patients, in the absence of other indicators of major trauma, should be triaged to Austin Health's, Victorian Spinal Cord Service by telephoning (03) 9496 5000 and asking for Spinal Unit Acute Registrar.

Multiple trauma, incorporating the need for microsurgery, should be referred and transferred to a Major Trauma Service. However, St Vincent's Hospital should be consulted in their capacity as leaders in the management of injuries requiring microsurgery.

Isolated injuries requiring microsurgery should be referred and transferred according to established referral patterns; this would include St Vincent's Hospital in the majority of cases.

Neurosurgical triage and transfer guidelines for major trauma still apply in rural areas, even where a neurosurgical specialist practises locally, as the management of these patients requires all the appropriate and agreed service supports of a Major Trauma Service.

Major Trauma Triage Guidelines Require:

1. Pre-hospital major trauma to be identified according to specified physiological and anatomical criteria (see adult and paediatric pre-hospital major trauma criteria below).
2. Triage to a Major Trauma Service where a major trauma patient is less than 30 minutes transport time from a Major Trauma Service.
3. Triage to the highest designated trauma service accessible in 30 minutes where a major trauma patient is more than 30 minutes transport time from a Major Trauma Service.
4. Triage to a designated trauma service accessible in the least amount of time in isolated rural areas that are more than 30 minutes from any trauma service.
5. Where a major trauma patient appears to be in an immediately life-threatening situation during transport, the patient be diverted to the nearest designated trauma service for stabilisation, with subsequent transport to a Major Trauma Service at the earliest appropriate time.
6. Where a patient is triaged initially to a non-Major Trauma Service for stabilisation, early liaison with the Major Trauma Service occur via the Trauma Advice and Referral telephone line 1800 700 001, and consideration be given to appropriate medical retrieval or interhospital transfer to a Major Trauma Service.
7. Discrete spinal cord trauma to be triaged to the Austin Health, within the defined safety and logistic constraints.
8. All paediatric spinal trauma patients (16yrs or under) are to be triaged to the Royal Children's Hospital.
9. All trauma services receiving spinal trauma patients should consult the Victorian Spinal Cord Service early after patient reception to optimise patient outcomes.

Major Trauma Service Designation

Major Trauma Services

The following hospitals are the highest level of adult trauma services and are designated Major Trauma Services (MTS):

- Melbourne Health: Royal Melbourne Hospital; and
- The Alfred.

The following hospital is the highest level of paediatric trauma service and is designated Major Trauma Service (MTS)

- Royal Children's Hospital

Metropolitan Trauma Services

The following metropolitan hospitals are the second level of adult and paediatric major trauma services and are designated Metropolitan Trauma Services (MeTS):

- Austin Health
- Eastern Health: Box Hill Hospital
- Southern Health: Monash Medical Centre, Clayton Dandenong Hospital
- Peninsula Health: Frankston Hospital,
- Northern Health: The Northern Hospital

The following are designated MeTS hospitals *for adult patients only*:

- Eastern Health: Maroondah Hospital
- Sisters Of Charity Health Service Melbourne: St Vincent's Health
- Western Health: Western Hospital

Metropolitan Primary Care Services

The following metropolitan hospitals are the lowest level of adult and paediatric major trauma services and are designated Primary Care Services (PCS):

- Peninsula Health: Rosebud Hospital
- Bayside Health: Sandringham and District Memorial Hospital
- Western Health: Sunshine Hospital
- Eastern Health: The Angliss Health Services
- Mercy Public Hospitals Inc: The Mercy Hospital, Werribee
- Western Health: Williamstown Hospital
- (Private Hospitals with Emergency Departments when authorised under Hospital Circular 4/1998)

Regional and Rural

Trauma Services in regional and rural Victoria fit within a three-tiered hierarchical structure:

1. Regional Trauma Services (RTS)
2. Urgent Care Services (UCS)
3. Primary Care Services (PCS).

Services by region are as follows:

BARWON SOUTH WEST REGION

Regional Trauma Service

Barwon Health - The Geelong Hospital
 South West Health Care - Warrnambool
 Western District Health Service – Hamilton

Urgent Care Service

Casterton Memorial Hospital
 Coleraine District Health Services
 Colac Area Health– Colac
 Hesse Rural Health Service -Winchelsea
 Lorne Community Hospital
 Moyne Health Services – Port Fairy
 Portland and District Hospital
 South West Health Care – Camperdown
 Terang and Mortlake Health Service
 Timboon and District Health Care Service
 Otway Health and Community Service - Apollo Bay

Primary Care Service

Colac Area Health Services – Birregurra
 South West Health Care - Lismore
 Hesse Rural Health Service – Rokewood
 Hesse Rural Health Service - Beeac
 Heywood Rural Health
 Terang and Mortlake Health Service – Mortlake
 Western District Health Service –Penshurst

Private Facilities

Balmoral Bush Nursing Centre
Cobden District Health Service
Dartmoor Bush Nursing Centre
Merino Health Services

GIPPSLAND REGION**Regional Trauma Service**

Latrobe Regional Hospital

Urgent Care Service

Bairnsdale Regional Health Service
Gippsland Southern Health Service - Leongatha
Gippsland Southern Health Service - Korumburra
Central Gippsland Health Service - Sale
Orbost Regional Health
South Gippsland Hospital - Foster
West Gippsland Health Care Group - Warragul
Wonthaggi and District Hospital
Yarram and District Health Service

Private Facilities

Warley Hospital -Cowes

Primary Care Service

Omeo District Hospital
Lakes Entrance Community Health Centre

Private Facilities

Buchan Bush Nursing Centre
Cann Valley Bush Nursing Centre
Dargo Bush Nursing Centre
Gelantipy Bush Nursing Centre
Heyfield Hospital
Mallacoota Medical Centre
Mt Baw Baw Medical Centre
Neerim District Soldiers Memorial Hospital
Swift's Creek Bush Nursing Centre

GRAMPIANS REGION**Regional Trauma Service**

Ballarat Health Services – Ballarat Base Hospital
Wimmera Health Care Group - Wimmera Base Hospital

Urgent Care Service

East Grampians Health Service – Ararat
East Wimmera Health Service - St Arnaud
Edenhope and District Hospital
Hepburn Health Service - Daylesford
Stawell Regional Health
West Wimmera Health Service - Nhill
Rural North West Health - Warracknabeal

Private Facilities

St John of God Hospital - Ballarat

Primary Care Service

Beaufort and Skipton Health Service - Beaufort
Beaufort and Skipton Health Service - Skipton
Djerriwarrh Health Service - Bacchus Marsh
East Wimmera Health Service - Donald
East Wimmera Health Service - Charlton
East Wimmera Health Service - Wycheproof
East Wimmera Health Service - Birchip
Hepburn Health Service - Creswick
Rural Northwest Health - Hopetoun
Wimmera Health Care Group - Dimboola

Dunmunkle Health Service - Rupanyup
West Wimmera Health Service - Jeparit
West Wimmera Health Service - Kaniva
West Wimmera Health Service - Rainbow
Elmhurst Bush Nursing Centre
Harrow Bush Nursing Centre
Woomelang Bush Nursing Centre
Lake Bolac Bush Nursing Centre

Private Facilities

Ballan District Health and Care
Rural Northwest Health - Beulah Pioneers' Bush Nursing Hospital

HUME REGION

Regional Trauma Service

Goulburn Valley Health (GVBH) Shepparton
Northeast Health Wangaratta
Albury Base Hospital

Urgent Care Service

Alexandra District Hospital
Alpine Health - Bright, Mt Beauty, Myrtleford
Benalla and District Memorial Hospital
Cobram District Hospital
Kilmore and District Hospital
Numurkah District Health Service
Mansfield District Hospital
Seymour District Memorial Hospital
Upper Murray Health and Community Service - Corryong
Wodonga Regional Health Service
Yarrawonga District Health Service
Yea and District Memorial Hospital

Primary Care Service

Nathalia District Hospital
Tallangatta Health Service
Beechworth Health Service

Private facilities

Chiltern and District Community Health Service
Euroa Health Inc.
Falls Creek Medical Centre
Mt Buller Medical Centre
Mt Hotham Medical Centre
Nagambie Medical Centre
Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre
Walwa Bush Nursing Centre
Yackandandah Bush Nursing Hospital

LODDON MALLEE

Regional Trauma Service

Bendigo Health Care Group
New Mildura Base Hospital

Urgent Care Service

Cohuna District Hospital
Echuca Regional Health
Kerang and District Hospital
Kyabram and District Health Service
Kyneton District Health Service
Maryborough District Health Service
Mt Alexander Hospital
Swan Hill District Hospital

Primary Care Service

Boort District Hospital
Inglewood and District Health Service
Maldon Hospital
Mallee Track Health and Community Service
Manangatang and District Hospital
Mclvor Health and Community Service
Robinvale District Hospital and Health Service
Rochester and Elmore District Health Service

Private Facilities

Dingee Bush Nursing Centre
Lockington Bush Nursing Corp.
Pyramid Hill Bush Nursing Hospital
Sea Lake and District Health Service

Monitoring and Review

The Department of Human Services will continue to monitor and liaise with all hospitals within the Victorian State Trauma System to assess the impact on services and patient outcomes following the introduction of the Guidelines.