

## EMS Triage and Destination Plan Overview

All North Carolina EMS Systems are required to implement a Triage and Destination Plan for Trauma, Burn, STEMI, Stroke, and Pediatrics by December 31, 2009. To assist with this requirement, the NC Office of EMS has worked with the EMS and healthcare community to develop templates that can be used by each EMS System. Here is an overview of the design and layout of the EMS Triage and Destination Plan Templates.

### Definition of a Patient

Each Triage and Destination Plan must define the patient for which the plan will be executed. The definition of the patient is listed in a gray box at the top of the Plan. This definition is standardized across North Carolina and cannot be changed.

### Purpose of the Plan

Each Triage and Destination Plan provides a purpose or list of objectives the Plan is attempting to accomplish. This is listed in bullets at the top of the Plan.

### Healthcare Facility Definitions

Each Triage and Destination Plan defines the requirements for specific destination types. The definitions are provided in the Pearls and Definitions section at the bottom of the Plan. Definitions for healthcare facilities include Specialty Centers, Specialty Capable Hospitals, Community Hospitals, and Specialty Care Transport Programs. Each EMS System will need to work with the hospitals and specialty centers in their area to define/classify each hospital's capabilities based on these definitions.

### Decision Algorithm

Each Triage and Destination Plan provides a decision tree or algorithm based on the patient's onset of symptoms/injury time, specialty care required, and time/distance from a specific destination type. This decision tree is located in the center of the page for each Plan.

Included in the decision algorithm are transport and air medical time limits. **The values of each of the time limits can be edited on each template by the EMS System using Adobe Acrobat Reader software. The default values provided are based on either evidence based or consensus recommendations from stakeholders within North Carolina.**

Each decision algorithm also includes a recommended destination based on a healthcare facility definition. **Although the definitions of the health care facilities cannot be changed, the destination boxes should be completed by the EMS System based on the specific hospital destinations (names) within the EMS System's service area. Edits can be made on the pdf using free Adobe Acrobat Reader software.**

### How each Triage and Destination Plan is to be used

When a patient presents to EMS with a time dependent illness or injury, EMS will evaluate the patient to determine if they meet the definition of a patient for one of the Triage and Destination Plans. If the patient meets the criteria for one of the 4 Plans, the decision algorithm is used to determine which destination is appropriate for the patient based on their onset of symptoms/injury, their time and distance from a healthcare facility, and the capability of the healthcare facility.

Ultimately each patient should receive the appropriate EMS care and be transported to the appropriate destination based on the plan. This is sometimes referred to as the Right Patient receiving the Right Care and being transported to the Right Place within the Right Time.