

UAMS MEDICAL CENTER
ACS SERVICES MANUAL

SUBJECT: Trauma Acceptance Guideline

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UPDATED: new

EFFECTIVE: 4/13/2023

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APPROVAL: 4/13/2023

CONCURRENCE(S): Trauma Faculty

PURPOSE:

To define the expectations for transfer acceptance of patients with traumatic injury

BACKGROUND:

Arkansas Trauma System Rules and Regulations require that all trauma transfers be coordinated through the Arkansas Trauma Communication Center (ATCC). In addition, Guidelines published by the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma outline criteria for the immediate transfer of moderately to severely injured patients to Level 1 Trauma Centers.

WHEREAS:

- Increased time to hemorrhage control results in increased mortality and morbidity for severely injured trauma patients.
- Lower-level trauma centers often do not have the blood products, surgeons, and critical care capabilities to adequately care for trauma patients.
- Axial imaging is likely to extend the time to transfer by at least 30-60 min.
- Imaging from other hospitals are commonly unhelpful in managing patients.

GOALS:

- A. **Axial imaging should NOT be requested for patients who are expected to be transferred to UAMS.**
- B. The decision to accept or not accept a trauma patient to UAMS shall be made within 10 minutes of contact by the ATCC at least 90% of the time.
- C. The exception to this 10-minute requirement is for stable, single-system orthopedic, ophthalmologic, or maxillofacial injuries where discussion with a specialist would be beneficial to avoid a double transfer.
- D. All communication shall come through the ATCC recorded line, and an answer is given to acceptance within 20 minutes.
- E. A direct physician-to-physician contact is not required for acceptance of a transfer.
- F. Acquisition of pretransfer computed tomography (CT) scans that would delay the immediate transfer or delay in acceptance violates these guidelines.

REFERENCE:

1. Arkansas Department of Health. Arkansas Trauma System Rules and Regulations. Available from: <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/rules/TraumaSystems.pdf>
2. ACS COT. Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient. Available from: <https://acs.wufoo.com/forms/acs-vrc-terms-of-use/>.