



Northern Regional Trauma Network

1. These criteria should prompt bypass or immediate transfer to definitive care facilities. Starship (paeds) and Auckland (adults) is the definitive care facility for most multi-trauma.
2. This is a guideline only. It does not replace clinical judgement.
3. All transfers must be safe and confer clinical benefit to the patient.
4. Notification between senior transferring and accepting medical staff precedes all transfers.
5. These guidelines have been agreed by all involved clinicians and endorsed by the four Northern Region CMOs.

Trauma inter-hospital transfer guidelines for Kaitaia, Dargaville and Bay of Islands Hospitals

Condition	Hospital to refer to	Comment
Traumatic Brain Injury		
GCS ≥ 13 +/- concussion, not resolving	Whangarei or Starship/Auckland	D/w Whangarei ED SMO on 021 672 512
GCS 9 - 12	Whangarei or Starship/Auckland	D/w Whangarei ED SMO on 021 672 512
GCS <9 and/or open brain injury e.g. compound skull fracture	Starship/Auckland	Paeds: Call Starship Adults: Call 0800 4 TRAUMA
Spine		
Suspect spinal injury, no motor deficit		X-ray and d/w Whangarei Orthopaedic team and/or refer to Whangarei Hospital for further imaging as needed.
Spinal cord injury: • Isolated with motor deficit • Multitrauma but not TBI or chest injuries	Paeds - Starship Adults - Middlemore	Refer to Supra-regional Spinal Cord Injury Guidelines
Spinal cord injury - with other major injuries such as TBI or chest	Paeds - Starship Adults - Middlemore or Auckland	For adult patients d/w Intensive Care at Middlemore to determine whether appropriate to transfer to Middlemore, otherwise transfer to Auckland by calling 0800 4 TRAUMA
Vascular Injuries		
Blunt Carotid/Vertebral/Thoracic Aortic Injuries	Starship/Auckland	Paeds: Call Starship Adults: Call 0800 4 TRAUMA
Burns/Plastics		
Burns > 20% , or less but affects special sites	Middlemore	Refer to Burn Guideline D/w Burn Service at Middlemore on 09 250 3800, and fax referral to 09 276 0114
Burns <20%		Refer to Burn Guideline D/w Burn Service at Middlemore if grafting required
Degloving of face or other special sites or extensive / complex facial lacerations	Middlemore	D/w Plastic Surgical Registrar at Middlemore on 021 784 057
Maxillo Facial		
All Max Fax injury - Paeds	Starship	
Isolated Max Fax injury - Adults	Middlemore	D/w Max Fax (021 292 1593) or Plastic Surgical Registrar (021 784 057) at Middlemore
Max Fax injury with TBI or chest injuries - Adults	Auckland	Adults: Call 0800 4 TRAUMA
Chest		
All paediatric chest injuries - serious	Starship	
Penetrating chest injury - with shock +/- haemodynamic instability	Starship /Auckland	If (adult) patient has > 1,500ml blood loss in chest drain, not responding to resuscitation, needs urgent thoracotomy. Transfer when stabilised. Call 0800 4 TRAUMA
Multiple rib #, flail chest/ sternum injury	Whangarei	
Pulmonary contusions/Pneumothorax/Haemathorax	Whangarei	
Abdominal Injuries		
Paediatric simple abdominal trauma	Whangarei	
Paediatric complex abdominal trauma	Starship	
Penetrating abdominal Injury	Whangarei or Auckland	If transfer to Auckland required, call 0800 4 TRAUMA
Blunt abdominal injury	Whangarei	
Complex liver injury	Auckland	Call 0800 4 TRAUMA
Perineal Injury	Whangarei	
Special limb injuries		
Upper limb with major nerve injury, +/- arterial injury	Middlemore	Call Plastic Surgical Registrar at Middlemore on 021 784 057
Upper limb with arterial injury (but no nerve injury)	Starship / Auckland	Paeds: Call Starship Adults: Call 0800 4 TRAUMA
Upper limb - amputation of viable digit (excluding simple terminalisation) or partial limb amputation	Middlemore	Call Plastic Surgical Registrar at Middlemore on 021 784 057
Mangled lower limb with tissue loss		D/w Orthopaedic Service at Whangarei Hospital to determine whether to transfer to Whangarei or Middlemore
Lower limb - penetrating injury with major nerve injury +/- arterial injury	Middlemore	Call Plastic Surgical Registrar at Middlemore on 021 784 057
Lower limb • penetrating injury with arterial injury (but no nerve injury) • blunt injury with ischaemia +/- nerve injury		D/w Orthopaedic Service at Whangarei Hospital to determine whether to transfer to Whangarei or Auckland
Orthopaedic		
Open or complex pelvic # +/- haemodynamic instability	Starship/Auckland	Paeds: Call Starship Adults: Call 0800 4 TRAUMA
Two or more long bone #, acetabulum #	Whangarei	
Urology		
Ruptured kidney or urethral injuries	Starship/Whangarei	