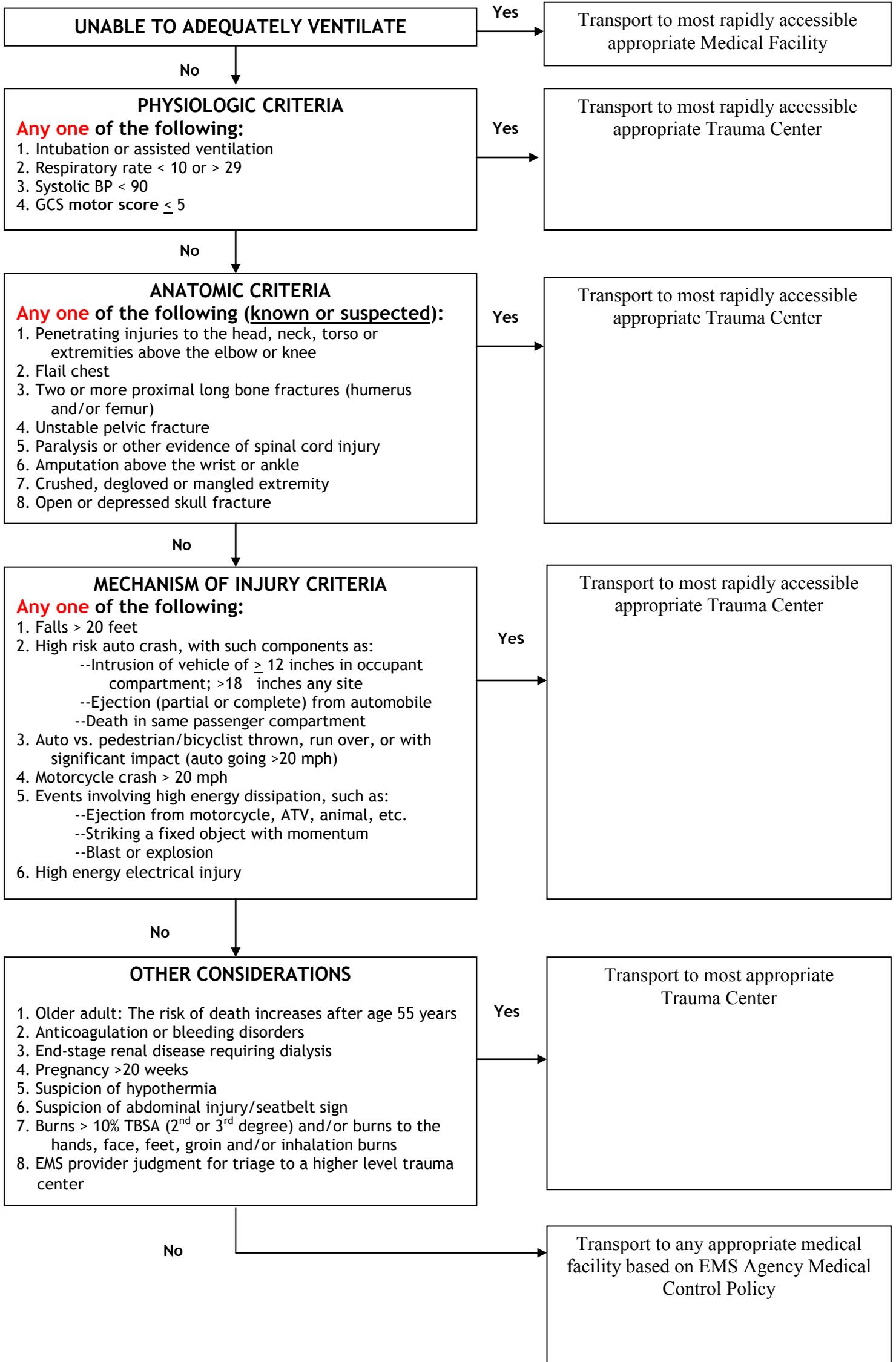
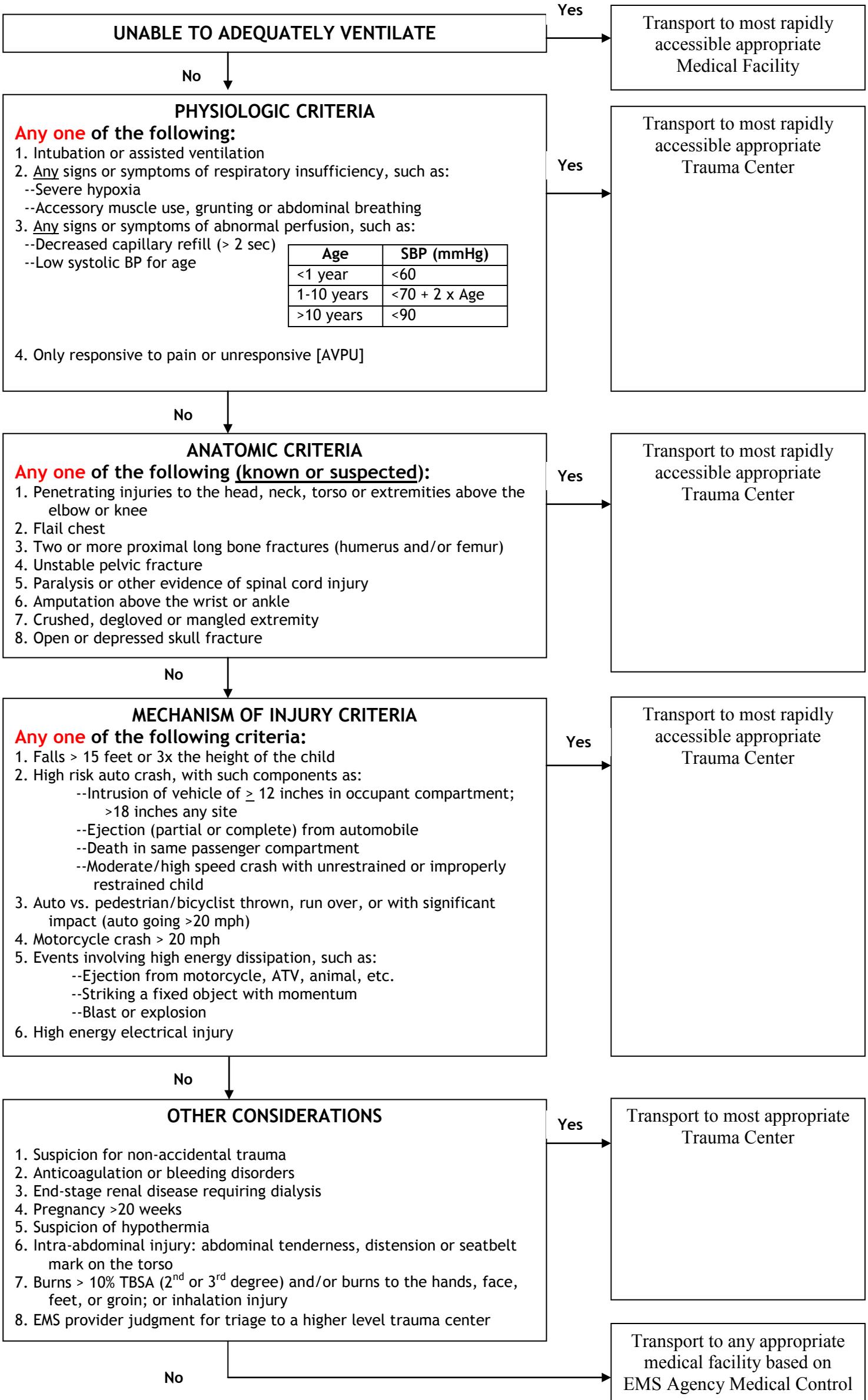


Foothills RETAC
Prehospital Trauma Triage Algorithm Guideline
Adult Patients (Ages 15 and older)



Foothills RETAC
Prehospital Trauma Triage Algorithm Guideline
Pediatric Patients (Less than 15 years old)





(FRETAC)

Foothills Regional Emergency Medical & Trauma Advisory Council

Serving Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, & Jefferson Counties

Foothills RETAC

Prehospital Trauma Destination Policy Narrative

Overview: The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), in conjunction with the State Emergency Medical & Trauma Advisory Council (SEMTAC), require each Regional Emergency Medical & Trauma Advisory Council (RETAC) to formulate patient movement policies. This Pre-Hospital Trauma Triage Algorithm and Policy were developed by the Foothills RETAC to aid and promote appropriate destinations for trauma patients within our five-county region.

Explanation of Algorithm: The left side of the attached algorithm was developed by SEMTAC and approved by the Board of Health to quickly identify the trauma patient, and what priority is given to trauma patients, utilizing physiological findings, mechanisms of injury, and co-morbid factors. The left side of the algorithm was used for each RETAC to develop their own individual algorithm, staying within this framework. The right side of this algorithm was developed by the Foothills RETAC. The “right” side is kept deliberately general in order to accommodate the diverse areas/counties within our region.

Explanation of Terms used by the RETAC: The Foothills RETAC chose to insert the words “*most rapidly accessible*” instead of others such as closest or nearest. Many factors are taken into consideration when transporting a trauma patient. These include, but are not limited to, weather, geography, number of patients, number of prehospital personnel, level of prehospital personnel, and other factors that influence decision making.

Oversight: It is expected that each transporting agency within the Foothills RETAC will use this algorithm to transport trauma patients in an effective time-sensitive manner, and that patients will be taken to the “*most appropriate*” trauma center given the above mentioned factors. The Foothills RETAC, in conjunction with Agency and Facility Medical Directors will monitor patient destinations through a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program when developed.

Boulder County Trauma: Boulder County is fortunate to have four Level III Trauma Centers: Avista Hospital, Boulder Community Hospital, Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center, and Longmont United Hospital. Having four Trauma Centers in Boulder County makes decision making for patient transport relatively simple. For High-Level trauma patients, Prehospital personnel need only to decide which facility they can reach in the least amount of time with the least amount of effort.

Clear Creek County Trauma: Clear Creek County does not have any medical facilities within their county. Most trauma patients are transported via Interstate 70 to the Denver Metropolitan region. Occasionally, depending on circumstances, a patient may be transported east along US Highway 6 coming into the Golden area or Interstate 70 west into Summit County to Summit Medical Center depending on the location of the trauma incident.

Gilpin County Trauma: Gilpin County does not have any emergency medical facilities within their county. Most trauma patients are transported via Interstate 70 to the Denver Metropolitan region. Occasionally, depending on circumstances, a patient may be transported east along US Highway 6 coming into the Golden area or Interstate 70 west into Summit County depending on the location of the trauma incident. They may also be transported into Boulder County via Highway 119 depending upon the location of the trauma incident.

Grand County Trauma: Grand County has Kremmling Memorial Hospital, a Level IV Trauma Center, Granby Medical Center, a Level IV Trauma Center, and Denver Health East Grand Community Clinic, a Level V Trauma Center. Each of these trauma centers is located in very separate areas of the county. Kremmling Hospital is located in Kremmling, in the western side of the county, Granby Medical Center is located in Granby, in the middle of the county, and Denver Health East Grand Community Clinic is located in Winter Park, in the eastern part of the county. Denver Health East Grand Community Clinic, when open, has all of the capabilities and staffing of the other facilities. When Denver Health East Grand Community Clinic is open, Grand County

Ambulance transports to the nearest one of their trauma centers for traumas within the county. At the western most, southern, and eastern most regions, where Grand borders other counties on Rabbit Ears and Berthoud Pass, and Highway 9, a decision must be made weighing all factors, if the patient should be taken out of county to a higher level of care. Discretion within this algorithm is given to the ambulance agency, with the knowledge that CQI, when developed, will monitor trauma transports

Jefferson County Trauma: Jefferson County currently has one Trauma Center, Exempla Lutheran Medical Center, a Level III Trauma Center. Patients requiring a higher level of care than a Level III are transported to a Denver Metropolitan Level I or II Trauma Center. The choice of which trauma center to transport to is made by the individual transporting agency, taking into consideration numerous variables such as weather, level of prehospital personnel, road obstructions, and scene times. Jefferson County is a very large diverse county, and transport decisions will reflect the individual incident, while following this algorithm.

Air Transport: The FRETAC protocols for Air Transport take into consideration the advanced level of care given to patients by flight crews. Since the Foothills RETAC currently has no Level I or II Trauma Centers, it will usually be most appropriate to take high level trauma patients out of the county where the incident occurred. Since flight times vary less than 5 minutes in the Denver metro area, and since they have numerous options of Levels I and II Trauma Centers, we leave it to the discretion of the requesting prehospital ground transport agency and the flight crews, and their medical directors as to which Level I or II Trauma Center they are flown to. We also recognize that flight crews may have many other factors to weigh in triage decisions such as wind, weather, and numbers of patients, agency request, and especially patient presentation. Therefore, the air transport algorithms are far more lenient to give them guidelines in patient destination, and not mandates. When developed at CDPHE, our FRETAC CQI program will monitor destinations for their appropriateness.

Pediatric Care: There is currently no Level I or II Trauma Centers within the Foothills RETAC. Transportation destination for Pediatric patients will be dependent upon numerous factors with location of traumatic incident and patient condition being the most important. Pediatric destinations must be left to the EMS agency and their Medical Director using solid QI Programs for patient destination.

EMS Medical Direction: It is the expectation of the Foothills RETAC that the EMS Medical Directors will be actively involved in trauma destination decisions and oversight of the EMS agencies for which they are responsible. Active EMS agency QI Programs with Trauma Destination review are also expected.