



TIME CRITICAL DIAGNOSIS MANUAL

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570 Phone: 573-751-6400 FAX: 573-751-6010
RELAY MISSOURI for Hearing and Speech Impaired 1-800-735-2966 VOICE 1-800-735-2466



SUBJECT: Spinal Cord Injury Protocol for Emergency Medical Services	Chapter: 2. Trauma
	Item: 2.6
REFERENCE	Page 1 of 2
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DISTRIBUTION: All Emergency Medical Services

PURPOSE: To provide guidance for the pre-hospital management of spinal cord injuries for both adults and children by emergency medical services personnel.

1. Ensure that Airway, Breathing, and Circulation are addressed. **Protect Airway**
2. Immobilize and protect entire head, neck, and spine.
3. Initiate IV LR fluid therapy 20 mL/kg bolus.
4. Titrate to a systolic pressure of 90 mm Hg.
5. Consider additional fluid administration
 - a. Maximum dose 2,000 mL without medical consultation
6. Indications for transfer to a Level I Trauma Center:
 - a. Obvious step deformity- add to triage protocol
 - b. Signs and symptoms of new paraplegia or quadriplegia in the presence of trauma
7. Patients who are 15 years of age or older should be transported to the Adult Spinal Specialty Center.

Pediatrics:

1. Ensure that Airway, Breathing, and Circulation are addressed. **Protect Airway**
2. Consult with nearest Trauma Center and, when possible, the Pediatric Trauma Center.
3. Indications for Referral to a Level I/Pediatric Trauma Center:
 - a. ? Obvious step deformity- add to triage protocol?
 - b. Signs and symptoms of new paraplegia or quadriplegia in the presence of trauma
4. Maintain appropriate head, neck and spine stabilization/immobilization.

2.6 Trauma Spinal Cord Injury Protocol for EMS, continued

5. Initiate IV/IO LR.
 - a. If age-related vital signs and patient's condition indicate hypoperfusion (< 80 mmHg ages 6-12, 75mmHg ages 2 to 5, and 65 mmHg for ages 0-1) administer initial fluid challenge of 20 mL/kg LR IV/IO. If patient's condition does not improve, administer the second bolus of fluid at 20 mL/kg LR IV/IO.
6. Continue General Patient Care.

Note: Adapted by the Missouri Trauma Task Force from *the Maryland Medical Protocols for Emergency Medical Services Providers, Effective July 1, 2009, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems and Pre-Hospital Treatment Protocols, Seventh Edition, Effective 6/6/08, Massachusetts Department of Public Health-Emergency Medical Services.*