





ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE

DATE: April 17, 2023

TO: American Medical Response
South San Francisco Fire Department
San Mateo County Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Group

FROM: Travis Kusman, MPH, Paramedic, EMS Director 
Dr. Gregory H. Gilbert, EMS Medical Director 

SUBJECT: Prehospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) Requirement (23-OPS-02)

Recognizing the importance of standardizing and optimizing prehospital assessment and care of trauma patients within our EMS system, effective June 30, 2025, all San Mateo County paramedics will be required to possess and continuously maintain active Provider certification in Prehospital Trauma Life Support (“PHTLS”)®. No other trauma credential will be recognized by the San Mateo County EMS Agency.

Falls were the leading mechanism of injury for trauma patients originating within our EMS system in calendar year 2022. Severe injuries from trauma continue to be prevalent, particularly within our elderly patient population.

Early identification and appropriate initial triage of patients meeting criteria to a trauma center is critical to assuring timely care, avoiding secondary transports, and promoting the best possible outcomes. Consideration of the kinematics of trauma and associated injury potential are essential components of patient assessment by prehospital personnel. When in question, paramedics are expected to consult with the designated trauma Base Hospital to determine patient destination.

Thank you for your continued commitment to providing outstanding care for the trauma patients we serve.