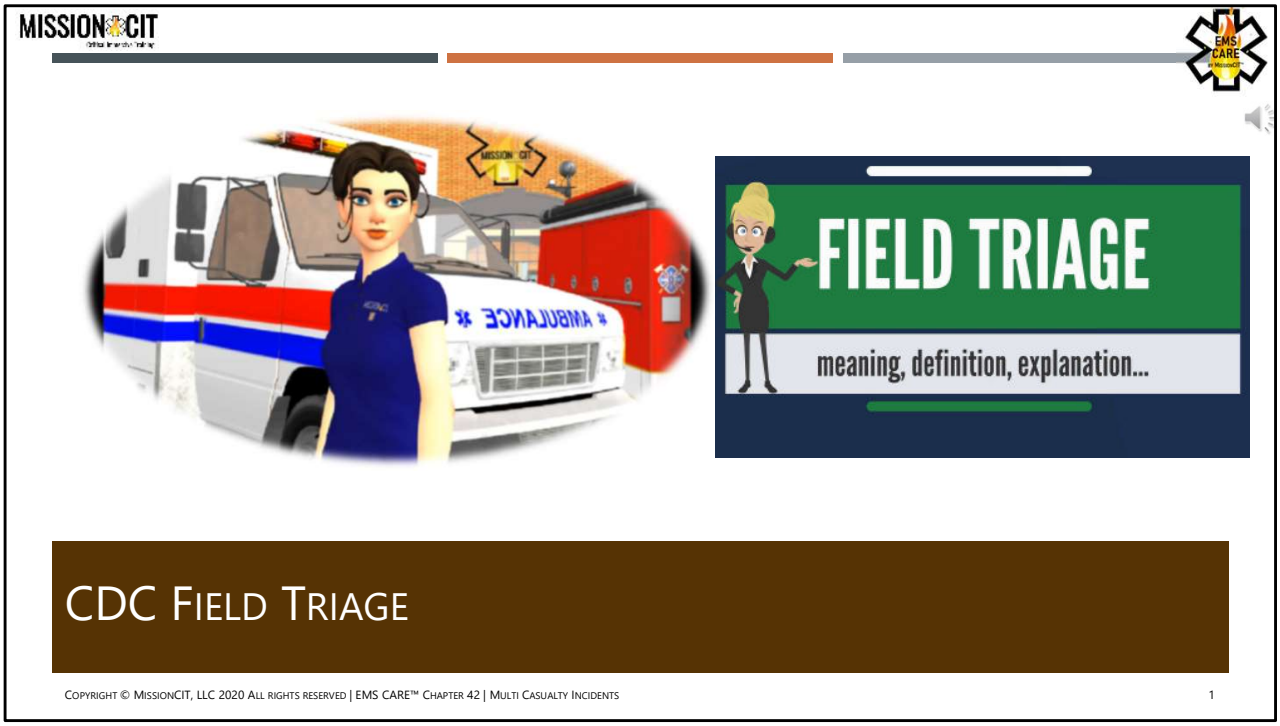
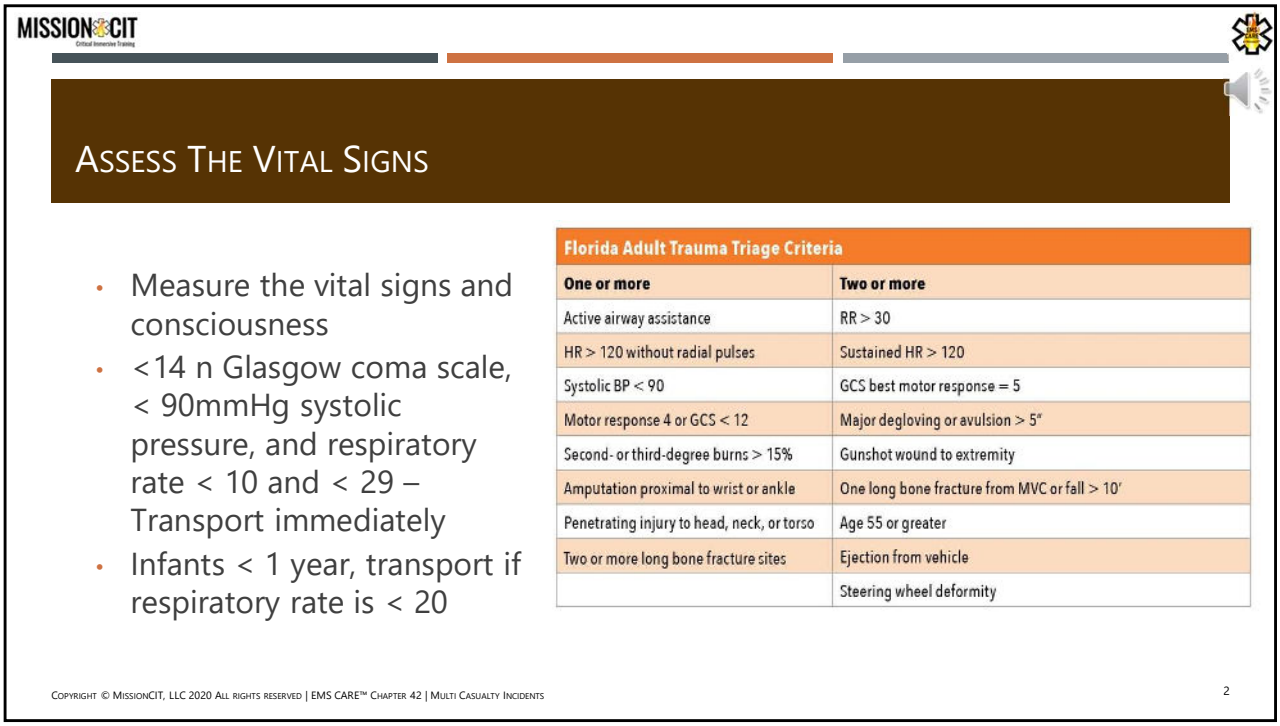


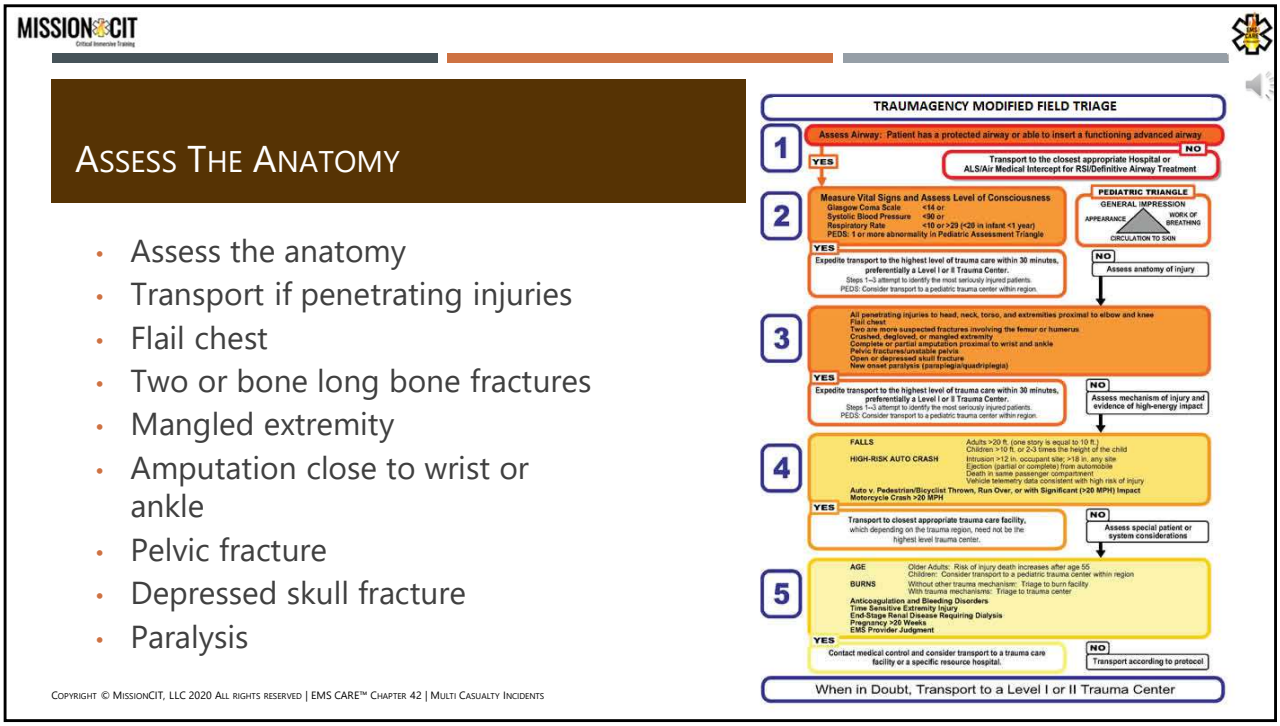
Thank you, Justin!

Welcome to this lesson where we talk about CDC Field Triage and the different steps associated with it. The main goal of this triage is to ensure that the injured patients are transported to a trauma center that is best equipped to handle them.



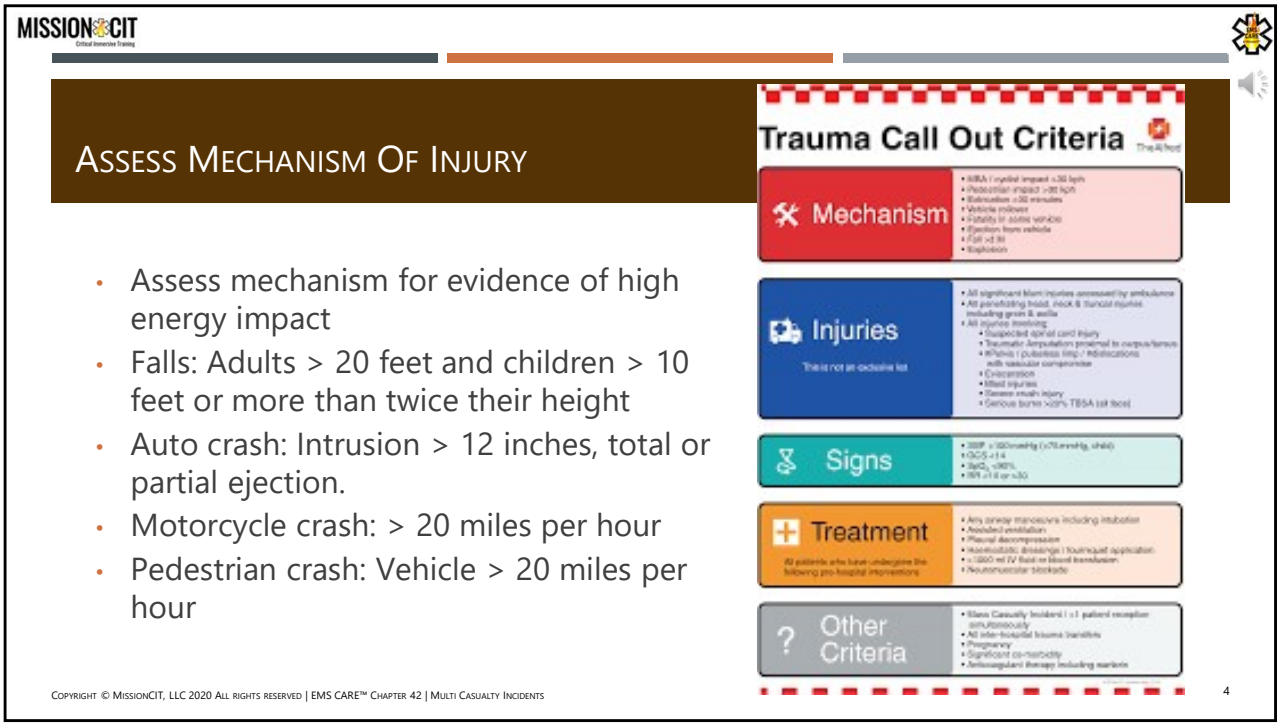
This is the first step where you measure the vital signs and level of consciousness of a patient.

If a person has less than 14 in the Glasgow coma scale, less than 90 mmHg of systolic pressure, and has a respiratory rate of less than 10 or greater than 29, they must be transported to the highest level of care within the trauma system. For infants aged less than a year, the respiratory rate measure should be less than 20 for immediate transportation.



The second step is to assess the anatomy of the injury.

Transport a person to the trauma center if there are penetrating injuries to the head, neck, torso, and extremities close to the elbow and knee, a flail chest, two or more long bone fractures, crushed or mangled extremity, amputation close to the wrist or ankle, pelvic fracture, open or depressed skull fracture, and paralysis.



The third step is to assess the mechanism of injury and the evidence of high energy impact.

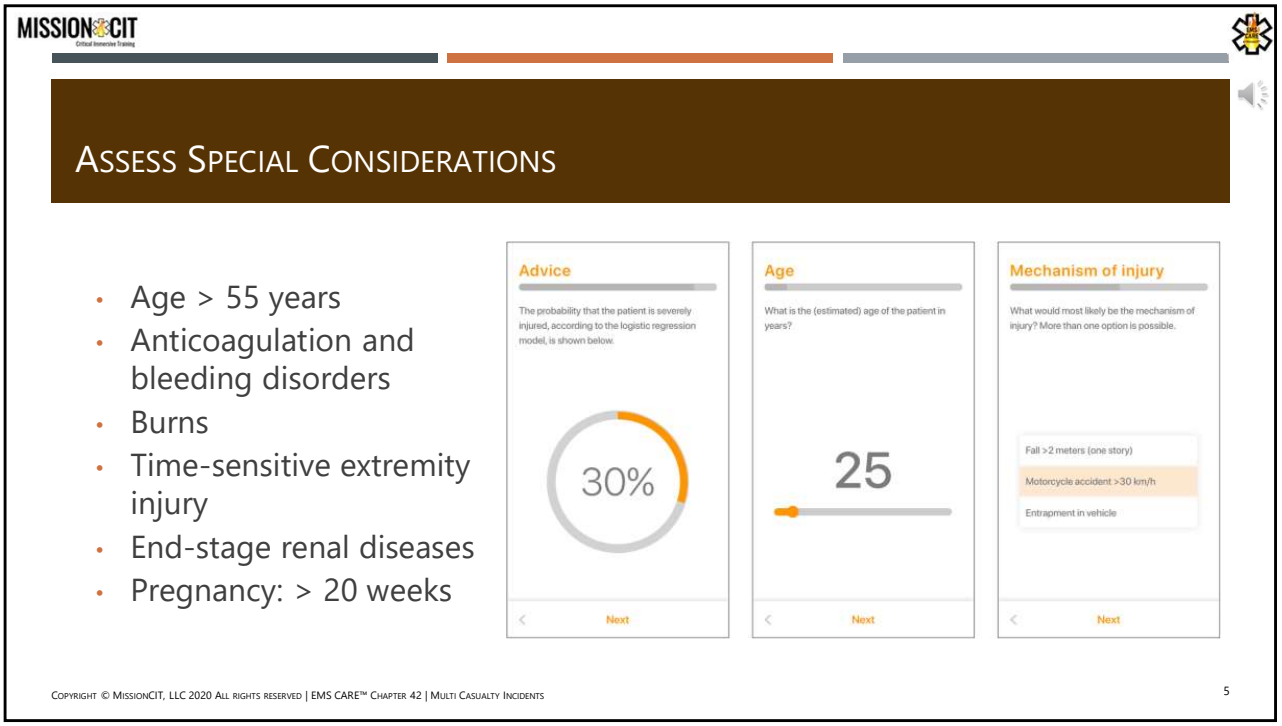
In the case of falls, adults must have fallen from more than 20 feet in height which is typically about two stories. For children, it must be greater than 10 feet or about two to three times the height of the child.

In a high-risk auto crash, the intrusion must be greater than 12 inches of the occupant site or greater than 18 inches on any site. The ejection must be total or partial from the automobile, a possible death in the same passenger compartment, and the vehicle telemetry data

must be consistent with the patient's injury.

In motorcycle crashes, the speed must have been more than 20 miles per hour while in pedestrians or cycles, the impact must be from a vehicle speeding at more than 20 miles per hour.

If a patient falls into any of the above categories, they need immediate transportation.



The last step is to assess any special patient or system considerations to decide on emergency transport.

Some of the special considerations to keep in mind are:

- Risk of injury or death increases after the age of 55 years
- Anticoagulation and bleeding disorders
- Burns
- Time-sensitive extremity injury
- End-stage renal disease requiring dialysis
- A pregnancy that is greater than 20 weeks
- Any other condition that you may think will require

emergency transport.

Besides these conditions, transport a person to a trauma center if you're in doubt.

With this, we come to the end of this lesson. Justin will take you pain management in the next chapter.