Injury kills more people every year than HIV, TB and malaria combined, and the overwhelming majority of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Timely emergency care saves lives: if fatality rates from severe injury were the same in low- and middle-income countries as in high-income countries, nearly 2 million lives could be saved every year.

The WHO Trauma Care Checklist is a simple tool – designed for use in emergency units – that emphasizes the key life-saving elements of initial trauma care.

A systematic approach to every injured person ensures that life-saving interventions are performed and that no life-threatening conditions are missed.

The checklist reviews key actions at two critical points:
1. Immediately after the ‘primary’ & ‘secondary’ surveys
2. Before the team leaves the patient’s bedside

Developed and validated by a large global collaboration, the WHO Trauma Care Checklist is appropriate for use in any emergency care setting and can be easily adapted to local context.
# Trauma Care Checklist

## Immediately after primary & secondary surveys:

**Is further airway intervention needed?**
- May be needed if:
  - GCS 8 or below
  - Hypoxaemia or hypercarbia
  - Face, neck, chest or any severe trauma

**Is there a tension pneumo-haemothorax?**

**Is the pulse oximeter placed and functioning?**

**Large-bore IV placed and fluids started?**

**Full survey for (and control of) external bleeding, including:**

- **Scalp**
- **Perineum**
- **Back**

**Assessed for pelvic fracture by:**

- **Exam**
- **X-ray**
- **CT**

**Assessed for internal bleeding by:**

- **Exam**
- **Ultrasound**
- **CT**
- **Diagnostic peritoneal lavage**

**Is spinal immobilization needed?**

**Neurovascular status of all 4 limbs checked?**

**Is the patient hypothermic?**

**Does the patient need (if no contraindication):**

- **Urinary catheter**
- **Chest drain**
- **Nasogastric tube**
- **None indicated**

## Before team leaves patient:

**Has the patient been given:**

- **Tetanus vaccine**
- **Analgesics**
- **Antibiotics**
- **None indicated**

**Have all tests and imaging been reviewed?**

**Which serial examinations are needed?**

**Plan of care discussed with:**

- **Patient/family**
- **Primary team**
- **Receiving unit**
- **Other specialists**

**Relevant trauma chart or form completed?**

---

[WWW.WHO.INT/EMERGECNLCARE](WWW.WHO.INT/EMERGECNLCARE)