Burn Centre Consultation Guidelines

These guidelines are meant to facilitate consultations with, and/or transfer to, a Burn Centre.

These guidelines are not definitive care recommendations and should be applied using clinical judgement.

The final decision to transfer remains at the discretion of the referring and receiving physicians. The decision to transfer should be made within ONE hour.

ALL CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE COORDINATED THROUGH CRITICALL ONTARIO AT 1-800-668-4357

Immediate Consultation with Consideration for Transfer

Thermal Burn

- Full thickness burns
- Partial thickness burns ≥ 10% TBSA
- Deep partial or full thickness burns involving the face, hands, genitalia, feet, perineum, or over any joints
- · Patients with high-risk considerations below

Inhalation Injury

 Inhalation injury and partial and/or full thickness burns ≥5% TBSA

Electrical Injury

- All high voltage (≥ 1000 V) electrical injuries
- Lightning injury

Chemical Injury

All chemical injuries

Paediatric (≤14 years age or <30 kg weight)

All pediatric burns may benefit from burn center referral

High Risk Considerations

- ≥ 50 years of age
- Anticoagulation
- Immunosuppression
- Pregnancy
- Diabetes
- Patients with burns requiring special social, emotional, or rehabilitation care
- Patients requiring more care than can be provided at the referring centre based on the assessment of the ED Physician
- Other significant medical problems

Burn with Traumatic Injury

 A major burn injury with traumatic mechanism should be transferred to the closest Burn Centre (also a regional Lead Trauma Hospital)

Consultation Recommended

Thermal Burn*

- All potentially deep burns of any size
- Poorly controlled pain

Inhalation Injury*

• Inhalation injury without burn: consult critical care

Electrical Injury*

 Low voltage (<1000 V) electrical injuries should receive consultation and consideration for follow up in a burn centre to screen for delayed symptom onset and vision problems

Outpatient Referral Recommended*

Thermal Burn*

Partial thickness non-functional burns <10% TBSA

*Please refer to the Burn Management Checklists



Total Body Surface Area (TBSA)

4.5% 18% 1% 9% 9% 18% 9% 7% 7%

Rule of Nines

Palmar Method



Patient's entire palmar surface is approximately 1%

