

BURN CENTER REFERRAL CRITERIA

A burn center may treat adults, children or both.

Burn injuries that should be referred to a burn center include the following:

- 1.** Partial-thickness burns of greater than 10% of the total body surface area
- 2.** Burns that involve the face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints
- 3.** Third-degree burns in any age group
- 4.** Electrical burns, including lightning injury
- 5.** Chemical burns
- 6.** Inhalation injury
- 7.** Burn injury in patients with preexisting medical disorders that could complicate management, prolong recovery, or affect mortality
- 8.** Any patients with burns and concomitant trauma (such as fractures) in which the burn injury poses the greatest risk of morbidity or mortality. In such cases, if the trauma poses the greater immediate risk, the patient's condition may be stabilized initially in a trauma center before transfer to a burn center. Physician judgment will be necessary in such situations and should be in concert with the regional medical control plan and triage protocols.
- 9.** Burned children in hospitals without qualified personnel or equipment for the care of children
- 10.** Burn injury in patients who will require special social, emotional, or rehabilitative intervention

Excerpted from Guidelines for the Operation of Burn Centers (pp. 79-86), Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2006, Committee on Trauma, American College of Surgeons.