Indications for calling a medical helicopter in Pennsylvania are found in the Pennsylvania EMS BLS Protocol #180, *Trauma Patient Destination*. This summarizes them.

**Call for helicopter if meets Category I Trauma Criteria and driving time >30 minutes:**

### Category I Trauma Criteria

**Physiologic Criteria:**
- Patient does not follow commands (GCS Motor ≤ 5)
- Hypotension, even a single episode (SBP < 90 mmHg)
- Respiratory rate <10 or >29 breaths/minute or need for ventilator support (<20 in age < 1 year)

**Anatomic Criteria**
- Penetrating injury to head, neck, torso and extremities proximal to elbow or knee (unless obviously superficial)
- Chest wall instability or deformity (for example, flail chest)
- Two or more proximal long-bone (humerus or femur) fractures
- Crushed/degloved/mangled or pulseless extremity
- Amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
- Pelvic fractures
- Paralysis (spinal cord injury)
Call Medical Command to discuss calling a helicopter if meets Category 2 Trauma Criteria and ground transport to a trauma center is ≥ 45 minutes

**Category 2 Trauma Criteria**

**Mechanism of Injury:**
- Falls
  - Adult: > 20 feet (one story = 10 feet)
  - Children: > 10 feet or 2-3 x height of child
- High Risk Auto Crash
  - Passenger compartment intrusion, including roof: > 12 in. occupant site or > 18 in. into compartment any site
  - Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile
- Death in same passenger compartment
- Auto vs. pedestrian/bicyclist thrown, run over, or significant (>20 mph) impact
- Motorcycle crash > 20 mph

**Other factors combined with traumatic injuries:**
- Older Adults: SBP<110 may indicate shock after age 65
- Anticoagulants or bleeding disorder
- Burns with trauma mechanism
- Pregnancy (>20 weeks)
- Finger amputation

Over for more