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
  - [ ] Yes, Done [ ] No

- **Is there a tension pneumo-haemothorax?**
  - [ ] Yes, Chest drain placed [ ] No

- **Is the pulse oximeter placed and functioning?**
  - [ ] Yes [ ] Not Available

- **Large-bore IV placed and fluids started?**
  - [ ] Yes [ ] Not indicated [ ] Not available

- **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?**
  - [ ] Yes, Done [ ] Not indicated

- **Neurovascular status of all 4 limbs checked?**
  - [ ] Yes

- **Is the patient hypothermic?**
  - [ ] Yes, Warming [ ] No

- **Does the patient need (if no contraindication):**
  - Urinary catheter [ ] Nasogastic tube [ ] None indicated
  - Chest drain

#### Before team leaves patient:

- **Has the patient been given:**
  - Tetanus vaccine [ ] Analgesics [ ] None indicated
  - Antibiotics

- **Have all tests and imaging been reviewed?**
  - [ ] Yes [ ] No, follow-up plan in place

- **Which serial examinations are needed?**
  - Neurological [ ] Abdominal
  - Vascular [ ] None

- **Plan of care discussed with:**
  - Patient/family [ ] Receiving unit
  - Primary team [ ] Other specialists

- **Relevant trauma chart or form completed?**
  - [ ] Yes [ ] Not available

[WWW.WHO.INT/EMERGENCYCARE](http://WWW.WHO.INT/EMERGENCYCARE)