

Burn Center Referral Cheat Sheet

The UC San Diego Health Regional Burn Center strives to provide quality care to all patients in San Diego and Imperial Counties who experience a burn injury. We are **happy to see any burn patients** that you feel need our attention! Here are a few tips on patients you may see in your department and **when and how to refer them to our Burn Center.**

Burn Severity Determination

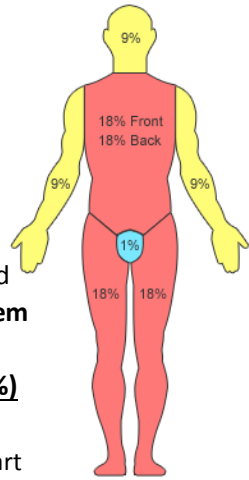
1° - Superficial: red, sometimes painful

2° - Partial Thickness: red, blistered, swollen, very painful

3° - Full Thickness: White, charred or translucent, no sensation in burned area.

Calculating Total Body Surface Area (TBSA%)

- **Only include 2° and 3° burns in the TBSA%**
- **Rule of nines** estimated size based on body part
- **Palm Method** – Using the **patient's palm as 1% of their TBSA** to roughly calculate the size of a burn

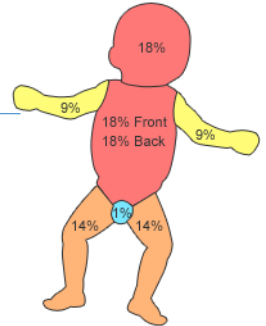


- **Hint:** If there are formed or popped blisters, or sloughed skin it is **AT LEAST a 2° burn!**

Who to transfer or refer?

We are happy to see any burn patients that you feel need our attention!

- If you would like to refer a patient **please call us ASAP** at 619-543-6502!
- **We can help you determine if the patient needs to be seen immediately or follow up in our clinic.**
- We can also help you decide what **dressings** to put on the wound. **ALWAYS call us for assistance!**
- **Delays in seeking care** at our burn center can have severe consequences for the patient, including causing unnecessary pain, surgery, and permanent scarring. We are here to help you and your patient!
- Please, **never** tell a patient to just come to our unit without an appointment!



American Burn Association Burn Center Referral Criteria

1. **Partial thickness burns (2°) greater than 10% total body surface area (TBSA)**
2. Burns that involve the **face, hands, feet, genitalia, perineum, or major joints**
3. **Full thickness burns (3°) 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 patient with **burns and trauma** (such as fractures) in which the burn injury poses the greatest risk of morbidity or mortality
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**

How to arrange immediate transfer or refer for follow-up

Call the Burn Center and speak to the Charge RN at 619-543-6502

If transferring immediately:

- **Medicate** for pain with PO or IV pain meds
- **Determine** and arrange appropriate transport method
- **Cover** wounds with dry gauze
- **Call** report to Charge RN

- **For critical patients** the Charge RN will arrange **MD to MD communication**

If referring for follow-up appointment:

- **Treat** pain and **prescribe** pain medications
- **Dress** wounds as discussed with Burn Charge RN
- **Give** patient enough wound care supplies for at least 2 days
- **Please, never tell a patient to just come to our unit without an appointment!**

- **Give** the patient the Burn Clinic phone number (619-543-6505) and tell them to **call at 8am on the next regular business day** to schedule follow up appointment
- **For questions after 5pm on weekdays and all-day on the weekends** let the patient know they can call 619-543-6502!