

# SAFE SYSTEM SYNOPSIS

## Abbreviated Injury Scale

### AIS

The **Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS)** was developed in the 1970s by the Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine as a **system to code injuries and injury severity** through a series of numerical identifiers.

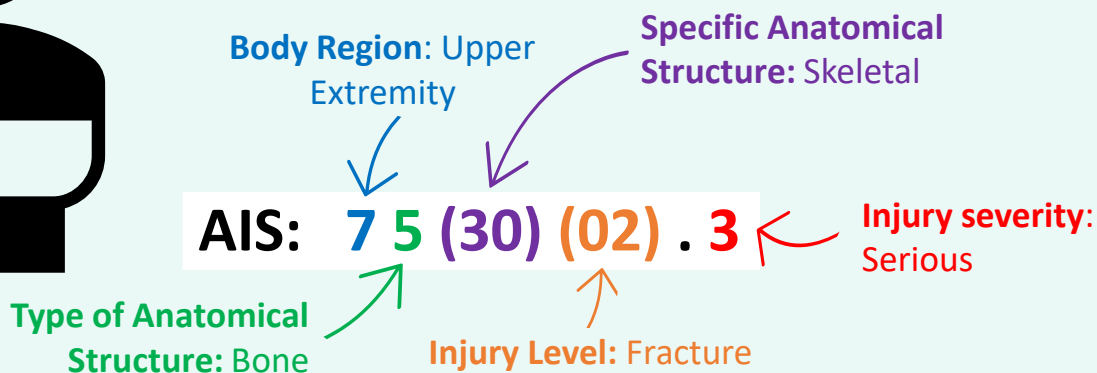
The code consists of a series of **six-digit numerical codes**, located to the left of a decimal point, which indicates the location of the injury. This is followed by a single digit numerical code, located to the right of the decimal point, which indicates the injury severity.

This six-digit location code is used to identify the **body region, type of anatomical structure, specific anatomical structure, and injury level**.



#### Example

AIS Injury Code: 7 5 (30) (02) . 3



Injury Location Identifier (Left of Decimal)	Description
1	Body region
2	Type of anatomical structure
3 & 4	Specific anatomical structure
5 & 6	Injury level

AIS Severity Code (Right of Decimal)	Injury Severity	Example
1	Minor	Skin contusion
2	Moderate	Fractured sternum
3	Serious	Multiple rib fractures
4	Severe	Perforated lungs
5	Critical	Ruptured liver with tissue loss
6	Fatal	Aorta severance
9	Not Further Specified (NFS)	

#### Extra Notes:

- The AIS has been updated in 1980, 1985, 1990, 1998, 2005 and 2015 by the AAAM
- An AIS injury severity code of 6 is not a code for a deceased patient but, rather, for an injury for which there is no current treatment thus will result in a fatality.
- The AIS injury severity code of 9 is used to indicate injuries which there is not sufficient information for more detailed coding.
- The **Maximum AIS (MAIS)** is sometimes used to indicate the severity of a vehicle crash. The MAIS injury is the injury with the highest severity rank in a patient who has sustained multiple injuries.

#### References

- [1] *Abbreviated Injury Scale* University of Chicago: American Association for Automotive Medicine (1985) p 80
- [2] T. Gennarelli and E Wodzin, *The Abbreviated Injury Scale 2005*, American Association for Automotive Medicine (AAAM), Des Plaines, IL (2008)
- [3] T.A. Gennarelli and E. Wodzin, *AIS 2005: A Contemporary Injury Scale* Injury 37 (2006) pp 1083-1091