Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital Trauma Services Department

Guideline/Protocol Number: T8

Guidelines and Protocols

TITLE: TRAUMA SURGEON BACK-UP

PURPOSE:

Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital recognizes major and multi-system trauma as a surgical disease process. Trauma patients should be provided with consistent surgical coverage to meet their needs. Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital has General/Trauma Surgeons who serve as designated members of the Trauma Team. A General/Trauma Surgeon will evaluate all major and multi-system trauma patients presenting to the Emergency Department (ED) and meeting Trauma Team activation criteria.

PROCESS:

I. BACK-UP CALL
   A. The General/Trauma Surgeon on call shall respond within 15 minutes of notification for a code 1 trauma activation
   B. A monthly General/Trauma Surgeon call schedule will be kept in the Emergency Department. A daily call schedule listing the General/Trauma Surgeon on call will be prominently displayed in the ED with the Faculty’s Cisco phone number.
   C. All patients admitted to Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital as the result of major or multi-system trauma will be admitted to a General/Trauma Surgeon or have a General/Trauma Surgeon consultation.
   D. The surgeon performing consultation shall follow the patient for the first 23 hours, after admission or post-op day, whichever is greater [or until cleared of trauma issues]. The consulting surgeon should be re-consulted after leaving the case if the patient’s condition deteriorates during the hospital stay.
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E. The General/Trauma surgeon will be notified by beeper, cell phone and/or overhead page upon identification of a patient meeting Trauma Team activation criteria.

F. Under circumstances in which the General/Trauma Surgeon on call is unavailable or does not respond in a timely manner, the surgeon listed for the next call rotation will be contacted as the BACK-UP General/Trauma Surgeon, if needed to attend to the acute needs of the trauma patient.

G. The General/Trauma Surgeon on call can request the assistance of the surgeon not on call when the following conditions exist:
   1. Trauma Team activation when the surgeon on call is scrubbed in a case and timely response to assess the trauma patient is not possible.
   2. Trauma Team activation when both the current and next rotation surgeon are involved in a single case
   3. General/Trauma Surgeon on call requires the assistance of another surgeon.

H. If a situation evolves where all surgeons are not available, the General/Trauma Surgeon will request that the ED physician and/or other medical staff members of Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital provide stabilization and care necessary for the trauma patient.

I. The BACK-UP surgeon is not required to wear a specific beeper for the purposes of back-up call. If they are unavailable contact the chief of surgery.
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REFERENCE / BIBLIOGRAPHY:

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:

LYNDON B. JOHNSON HOSPITAL TRAUMA SERVICES

REVIEW / REVISION HISTORY

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