Division of Acute Care Surgery Clinical Practice Policies, Guidelines, and Algorithms:
Procedures in the Emergency Department
Clinical Practice Policy

Original Date: 02/2016
Purpose: To facilitate management of chest tube insertion procedures by residents and fellows in the ED.

Adult patients (age 16 and over)

Chest tube insertion procedures will be divided as follows:
- Emergency chest tubes in hemodynamically unstable patients are performed by the trauma team
- Elective chest tubes placed in stable patients are performed by the EM residents at the discretion of the trauma faculty
  - EM resident and fellow chest tube procedures will be supervised by the Trauma chief, faculty, and/or fellow
- Trauma faculty will be primary supervising and billing attending for all chest tubes

Endotracheal intubation procedures will be divided as follows:
- Emergency intubations or difficult intubations are performed by the EM team
- Elective intubations in stable patients are performed by the trauma chief resident utilized assisted video laryngoscopy at the discretion of the EM attending
  - Trauma resident intubation procedures will be supervised by the EM faculty
- EM faculty will be primary supervising and billing attending for all intubation procedures

Attending over-ride options:
- The Trauma faculty has final discretion regarding which chest tubes are ideal for less experienced residents & fellows
- The EM faculty has final discretion regarding which airways are ideal for less experienced residents & fellows