



Trauma Center Practice Management Policy

*Iowa Methodist Medical Center and Blank Children's Hospital
Des Moines, Iowa*

NEUROSURGICAL TRAUMA COVERAGE	
Policy #12	
ADULT AND PEDIATRIC Practice Management Policy	Effective: 10/26/2007
Contact: Trauma Center Medical Director/ Trauma Center Program Manager	Last Reviewed: 01/29/2017

- I. **PURPOSE:** IMMC/BCH is committed to providing quality and timely care to patients with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries.

- II. **STATEMENT:**
 - A. The initial assessment of the brain and/or spinal cord injured trauma patient is the responsibility of the on-call trauma surgeon who is credentialed in the initial management of traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. Medical imaging studies and a neurosurgical consult will be initiated as appropriate.

 - B. The neurosurgical call schedule and corresponding phone numbers are posted in the Emergency Department and Trauma Resuscitation Control Room.

 - C. A Neuro Surgeon will provide an in-person evaluation of the emergent patient within 30 minutes (for patients meeting IMMC/Blank defined criteria).

 - D. If the neurosurgeon is unable to physically come to the Emergency Department (such as when in the middle of a surgical case), direct telephone communication between the neurosurgeon and trauma surgeon must occur within the 30-minute time frame. Based on their discussion, if the need for neurosurgical intervention is deemed emergent and the neurosurgeon is unavailable, arrangements for immediate transfer of the patient will be completed.

 - E. All transfers or delay of timely neurosurgical evaluation will be reviewed via the Trauma PIPS program.

Approved by Trauma Committee, October 26, 2007

Revised and approved by Trauma Committee, July 30, 2010

Revised and approved by Trauma Committee, April 25, 2014

Revised and approved by Trauma Committee, October 28, 2016

Revised and approved by Trauma Committee, January 29, 2017