

Trauma Care Guideline

Neurosurgery Trauma Response Times and Expectations

Purpose:

To communicate the response times mandated by the American College of Surgeons as indicated by the following excerpt from Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient:

“Neurotrauma care must be continuously available for ***all TBI and spinal cord injury patients*** and must be present and respond within 30 minutes based on institution specific criteria.” (CD-8-2)

Requirement

Neurosurgeons¹ must be present **at the patients’ bedside within 30 minutes** from the request of the physician for patients who meet the following criteria:

- Presenting with a GCS <8 attributed to Trauma
- Acute Intracranial hemorrhage (known traumatic mechanism <3 days of arrival) and patient on anti-coagulants
- Intracranial hemorrhage and with neurological deficit
- At the discretion of the ED or Trauma physician²

*Documentation of Neurosurgeon arrival time will be documented by the neurosurgeon within their dictation/note.

Non-Emergent Response:

For all other TBI and SCI it is the expectation that Neurosurgery see the patient within 4 hours.

¹ Per ACS, “Neurosurgical evaluation may be done by a neurosurgery resident at any level or neurosurgery mid-level provider as long as the patient was initially evaluated by an Emergency Room physician, Trauma Surgeon, or Senior Neurosurgery Resident”

² ED MD to be clear to Neurosurgery and in their communication and documentation that response is needed within 30 minutes