



A collaboration among the University of Minnesota,
University of Minnesota Physicians and Fairview Health Services

Trauma Care Guideline

Orthopedic 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.

“An orthopedic team member must be available in the trauma resuscitation area within 30 minutes after consultation has been requested by the surgical trauma team leader for multiply injured patients based on institution specific criteria.”

Recommendation:

Orthopedic surgeons must be present in the Emergency Department within 30 minutes from request of the ED physician for patients that meet the following criteria:

- Diagnosis of compartment syndrome
- Long bone fracture with vascular compromise
- Any fracture unable to be reduced with vascular compromise

*Documentation of Orthopedic Surgeon's arrival time will be documented by Orthopedic Surgeon within their dictation/note

Non-Emergent Response:

For all orthopedic trauma, it is the expectation that Orthopedic team member to evaluate the patient within 18 hours

