

PRACTICE GUIDELINE

Effective Date: 2/1/2021

Manual Reference: Deaconess Trauma Services

TITLE: DROWNING

PURPOSE: To provide a guideline for the treatment of patients who present with the diagnosis of drowning requiring potential admission at DHS

DEFINITIONS: Drowning is defined as an injury pattern consistent with prolonged submersion or inhalation of water

GUIDELINES:

1. Any patient regardless of age presenting with a history of drowning will be considered for trauma evaluation based on mechanism.
 - a. If a mechanism of witnessed trauma (ie. fall from height into the water or boating accident), an activation will occur
 - b. If **NO** witnessed traumatic mechanism, the patient will be first evaluated by the ED physician and stabilized as required. Complete imaging as indicated on exam and history
 - i. If **NO** unsuspected traumatic injuries are identified, the patient can be admitted to the medicine/pediatric service line as needed.
 - ii. If an unsuspected injury is identified, a "trauma activation" will occur at that time. This will **NOT** result in a delay of activation event.

REFERENCES:

Humm, E., Helmer, S., Reyes, J., Haan, J.(2020). Patterns of Injuries in Drowning Patients – Do These Patients Need a Trauma Team? Kansas Journal of Medicine, Retrieved from <https://journals.ku.edu/kjm/article/view/13871/12824>

REVIEWED DATE	REVISED DATE
JUNE 2021	