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Special Consideration for the Management of the Pediatric Trauma Patient

Purpose: To provide a guideline for pediatric patients treated at Deaconess Midtown Hospital. Recognizing that the pediatric population has a unique set of needs, this guideline addresses the additional resources available when treating an injured pediatric patient

Definition: A pediatric patient is defined as someone 14 year of age or younger

Guidelines:

A. Pediatric Intensivist

- a. From 0800 – 2000 each day, the Pediatric Intensivist on call may perform all services necessary to provide the pediatric patients of Deaconess Midtown Hospital Trauma Center with the level of on-call Pediatric Intensivist services that should reasonably be provided by a Level II Trauma Center according to the guidelines set forth by the American College of Surgeons
- b. Pediatric Intensivist representative should be available for consultation on any patient < 18 years of age at the discretion of the Trauma Surgeon
- c. As a courtesy, the Pediatric Intensivist shall be notified of pediatric Category I trauma activations, regardless of whether there is an immediate need for consultation

B. Child Life Assistant

- a. A Child Life Assistant (CLA) is a trained professional with expertise in helping children and their families deal with the emotional components of a traumatic event
- b. Deaconess employs a CLA who is available upon request to provide resources
 - i. During normal business hours, contact the CLA at 812-842-3834
 - ii. To request after normal hours, contact 812-842-3880 to have the CLA paged

C. Pediatric Neurosurgery

- a. Not all neurosurgeons are able to provide care for the complex neurosurgical injuries in pediatric patients
- b. Depending on which Neurosurgeon is on call, a pediatric patient may need to be transferred to a higher level of care
 - i. Consult the on-call Neurosurgeon for direction

D. Transfer Criteria

- a. If a pediatric patient is in need of a higher level of care than can be provided at Deaconess Midtown Hospital, see “Transfer of the Trauma Patient From Deaconess” guideline

E. Non-Accidental Trauma

- a. See “Non-Accidental Trauma in the Pediatric Population” guideline

F. Radiation Exposure

- a. Pediatric patients are more radiosensitive than adults
- b. The use of equipment and exposure settings for adults may result in excessive radiation exposure if used on pediatric patients
- c. Efforts should be made to minimize risk by reducing unnecessary exposure to ionizing radiation, including computed tomography (CT), fluoroscopy, and conventional x-rays

References:

- Pediatric Intensivist Trauma Panel guideline
- Transfer of the Trauma Patient From Deaconess guideline
- Non-Accidental Trauma in the Pediatric Population
- Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient 2022